Agriculture – 1937
Condition of.

Alabama

Crop Control Advocated At Farm Rally

Advertiser 8-5-37 Montgomery, Ala.

Applause Greets Motion Asking Congressmen To Support Program

Cotton Loans Hit

Advertiser 8-5-37

Bankhead To Speak Today; Gunter Subbed For Black Kept Busy In Washington

By A. F. MAHAN, JR.

AUBURN, ALA., Aug. 4.—(AP)—A demand that Congress enact a production control program "with teeth in it" at the "earliest possible time" was contained in a resolution presented the Alabama Farm Bureau Federation here today.

Presentation of the demand, drawn by the Bureau's resolutions committee, followed handclapping approval earlier today of "real agricultural control" advocated by Edward A. O'Neal, president of the American Farm Bureau Federation.

A formal vote on the congressional demand, urged by O'Neal in his address to more than 1,000 ruralists here for annual farmers week, will be taken late tomorrow.

O'Neal charged "President Roosevelt has shown the way" and called upon the farmers to demand a special session of Congress in October to adopt an agricultural program.

A proposed loan of 12 cents a pound on 1937 cotton brought condemnation from O'Neal, who termed it "peanuts—something that will give you the belly-ache."

Other resolutions presented today included one calling for establishment of a "scientifically managed currency" regulated on "an index of basic commodity prices."

Montgomery Woman Wins

The Alabama Council of Home Demonstration Clubs, also meeting in conjunction with farmers week, today reelected Mrs. John H. Lee, of Hamburg, as president. At the same session, Mrs. Neil J. Cowles, of Montgomery County defeated five others in a statewide public speaking contest.

Dean M. J. Funchess, of Alabama Polytechnic Institute, headed an afternoon speaking campaign urging farmers to produce more livestock and turn more lands to forage and feed producing purposes.

Funchess said that Alabama did not now produce enough feed and forage to supply livestock now on hand and did not produce enough livestock to supply needs of its people.

A feature of tomorrow's program will be an address by United States Senator John H. Bankhead, congressional champion of agricultural legislation.

Mayor W. A. Gunter, of Montgomery, who came to the farm rally here to speak in the absence of Senator Hugo Black, busy at Washington, spoke to a crowded auditorium.

Mayor Gunter said, while he "disagreed with Senator Black on his Supreme Court stand and his wage and hour bill," he believed "Black was in a position to aid Alabama farmers due to his support of Roosevelt and his administrations' policies." Continuing, he told the farmers to stand man to man in seeking an agricultural program which would achieve rural betterment." "Do this," he said, 'and you're bound to win."

In closing, the popular mayor brought chuckles from the assembled visitors when he advised them:

"Beware of politicians, even as I."

O'Neal Lauds Senators

O'Neal praised both Alabama senators in his address, and urged farmers to demand that their congressmen get behind a pending agricultural control bill drawn by a group of 92 national farm leaders at a conference last February.

O'Neal said he already was "on record" as advocating a special session of Congress in October and asked the ruralists, both men and women, if they wanted "real agricultural control."

Handclapping and cheers greeted his query, some shouted "amen."

The same farmers who yesterday cheered the news that Senators Black and Bilbo had asked a twelve-cent cotton loan to stabilize prices, made no demonstration as O'Neal condemned the plan as "temporary" and declared it should not be accepted.

The proposed farm bureau resolution on control followed closely lines suggested by O'Neal in his address. The section pertaining to it follows:

Resolution Formulated

"Be it resolved that this organization strongly and emphatically urges the enactment of such major agricultural bill at the earliest possible time, which will give this standard of living to the farmers and embody a program which will equally and equitably protect the interests of all agriculture in the United States and provide for the continuance of a soil building and conserving program, parity of income and prices through benefit payments and stabilization of prices, and also set up production control with enough teeth to make it effective."

Dean Funchess was joined in urging greater livestock production by Dr. R. S. Sugg, extension service animal husbandman. J. C Lowery. F. W. Burns, John E. Ivey, J. C. Grimes and W. D. Salmon, all connected with Auburn or the extension service.

The public speaking contest was a feature of the women's afternoon session. Following Mrs. Cowles, who won a trip to Chicago with her speech on rural health, were Mrs. B. L. Spradlin of Macon County and Mrs. C. C. Fuller, of Elmore County.

Other demonstration council officers chosen beside Mrs. Lee included Mrs. E. N. McCall, of Brewton, and Mrs. T. F. Holloway, of Falco, vice-presidents; Mrs. H. G. Corbin of Nauvoo, secretary; Mrs. J. B. Raines, of Fyffe, treasurer, and Mrs. E. C. Bledsoe, Armstrong, parliamentarian.

Agriculture - 1937
Condition of

Alabama.

Evergreen, Ala., Courant
February 4, 1937

FARMER'S CONFERENCE TO BE HELD FEBRUARY 12, 1937

My dear Farmers:

Please don't forget the Farmers Conference that will be held at the County Training School, Friday, February 12, 1937.

Come and let us help you plan your farming program for 1937. Come and let us help you to get some money to grow your crops in 1937. A "Safe Farming Program" will be worked out for Conecuh and adopted. We want you to come so that we can learn about some of the things that you want and need.

It has been said, that the most blessed thing in the world is useful work. Whatever else the future holds for humankind, it must so order its life that all men and women everywhere shall have some constructive work to do each day and be permitted to do it. Some work, some income, some leisure in each human life is the goal we are striving for in almost every man's philosophy. And herein are rural people—the men and women who live on farms,—blessed beyond most other groups. The farmer, with his flocks and herds, his fields, orchards and gardens, always has work to do and work of a constructive, creative kind—a kind that varies with the seasons.

Here is a tentative program for you to be thinking about.

As the Negro farmer's program for a family of five on a two-mule farm we recommend that he provide himself with two cows, four hogs, fifty chickens and that he produce the following items:

Corn, 280 bushels; Hay, 8 tons; Meat and lard. 600 pounds; Milk, 365 gallons; Butter, 104 pounds; Eggs, 150 dozen; Poultry, 208 pounds; Syrup 20 gallons; Garden, ¼ acre; Sweet potatoes, 40 bushels; Irish potatoes, 30 bushels; Fruit, 25 bushels; Oats, 4 acres; Legumes, Winter and Summer.

J. B. Jordan, Negro Co. Agent.

Sheffield, Ala., Daily
February 15, 1937

GOOBERS BACK IN LIMELIGHT AS CASH CROP

Dothan, Peanut Seat Of Alabama, Gains From Program

By A. F. MAHAN, JR.

DOTHAN, Feb. 15—(AP)—Peanuts, known across plantation lands since slavery days as "goobers," have become in recent years one of the South's major crops. The estimated 1936 value was $44,150,000.

In Alabama, of which this city is the "peanut capital," the crop has become third in value, being eclipsed only by cotton and corn. Agricultural experts say the same undoubtedly is true of other states, particularly Georgia, which leads in peanut production.

Uses, domestic and commercial, to which the lowly "goober" may be put are almost unlimited.

They go into candy, provide good hog feed, make butter popular in picnic sandwiches, and their oils are used commerically. Recently experiments have been made in treatment of infantile paralysis with peanut oil massages.

Parched and boiled "goobers" long have been a southern delicacy.

The "peanut belt" stretches from Virginia to Florida across to Texas and Oklahoma. It produced 1,300,540,000 pounds in 1936.

In 1936, the estimate of crop values issued by the United States Department of Agriculture follows:

State	Pounds	Value
Virginia	151,200,000	$ 5,746,000
N. Carolina	243,960,000	9,270,000
S. Carolina	8,160,000	343,000
Georgia	447,700,000	14,774,000
Florida	46,575,000	1,397,000
Tennessee	5,625,000	197,000
Alabama	255,060,000	7,397,000
Mississippi	14,120,000	790,000
Arkansas	9,350,000	411,000
Louisiana	7,680,000	392,000
Oklahoma	9,990,000	360,000
Texas	99,120,000	3,073,000

The U. S. Agriculture Department estimated the average value per pound in 1936 was 3.4 cents. This did not include subsidy payments for crop control cooperation or otherwise.

Acreage was reduced sharply in many states during the last crop years as compared to 1935, curtailing production as much as 10 to 20he a cent in some states. Peanuts are among the easiest crops to cultivate, growing without aid of fertilizer in most southeastern soils. The vines make valuable hay, and hogs may be turned into peanut fields to do their own harvesting.

Oils are used principally as a vegetable compound substitutes and generally in cooking.

Dr. George Washington Carver, world-known negro scientist at Tuskegee Institute, began using peanut oil as a massage compound for treatment of infantile paralysis victims several years ago. He said "some wonderful results" were secured, but the treatment had not been sufficiently used to establish itself medically.

MR. MacRAE'S WINTER-GREEN PLAN

One of the out-in-front Southern leaders of his time is Mr. Hugh McRae, capitalist, developer and economist of Wilmington, N. C. Mr. MacRae not only is a successful business man and an imaginative thinker upon the every-day, everlasting problems of the South, but he is enterprising as a leader. He has ideas and likes to expound them and insist upon them. He knows how to write and, having no false modesty, doesn't hesitate to do it. He is in frequent contact with the editors of Southern newspapers—with regard to various economic questions. One finds his letters uniformly stimulating. He is a good prodder—that is to say, a good leader. Editors always like to hear from Mr. MacRae.

Recently The Advertiser had a note from Mr. MacRae enclosing some newspaper clippings about a demonstration of one of his favorite ideas at Invershiel, his plantation near Rocky Point, North Carolina. Says the Carolinian in his personal note to The Advertiser:

For the purpose of promoting the inescapable truth that "The South will come into its own when its fields are green in winter" I am sending a reprint about the Field Day at Invershiel. The statements of authorities give encouragement toward further effort and pgroress.

Con the South's devastating agricultural system—the base of its economic structure and its civilization—be changed for the better? Can efforts be coordinated toward that end?

Yo uare cordially invited to the next Field Day (or any day and in any manner convenient) to ascertain the facts and decide as to the incidental benefits from grazing livestock throughout teh year on Annual Crops.

There is no patent, no secrecy, no restriction. The program results from the piecing together of desirable practices from scattered sources.

Here's the story, as told by The Wilmington Star, which is familiar with the great work that Mr. MacRae is attempting:

Demonstration of a possible agricultural revolution for the entire South was witnessed yesterday by a large group of planters and persons interested in the development of Southern agriculture at Invershiel, dairy farm of Hugh McRae, Wilmington agriculturist, near Rocky Point.

Among those present at the field day were Dean I. O. Schaub, of State College, A. C. Kimery, dairy extension specialist, Prof. R. H. Ruffner, head of the department of animal husbandry of State College, and C. R. Dillard, farm manager of Penderlea, Resettlement Administration project near Willard.

During the morning the crowd which gathered at the farm where Mr. McRae has pioneered in the project of year-round grazing, toured the farm and heard the visiting agriculturist specialists from State College speak briefly.

Mr. McRae explained the program he follows at the farm as he advanced facts and figures to prove the truth of his motto that "The South Will Come Into Its Own When Its Fields Are Green In Winter."

From this point on we lift The Star's report bodily so that we may not spoil it by attempting an abstract of it:

Touring the farm the visitors saw the fields where the cows graze the entire year with the exception of those few days when the weather is so inclement it is not advisable to turn them into the fields. There were sixteen such days during the past year, Mr. MacRae explained. On these days the cattle are fed on silage taken from the fields.

Figures advanced during the talks at the field day tended to show that Mr. MacRae, following his plan, is able to produce milk at his farm at one-half the cost entailed by the average record-breaking farmer-dairyman in North Carolina.

"This plan could revolutionize the South if put into effect over the entire section," Mr. Kimrey said. "Not only would the economical raising of livestock in the South increas the amount of this section, but it would tend to take the South away from cash crops, solving two problems at once."

"Hugh MacRae has here a plan which could change the entire agriculture economic apect of the South," Dean I. O. Schaub said.

Other officials from State College said use of the plan is spreading over the southeast and especially in the southeastern part of North Carolina.

Mr. MacRae explained to the crowd attending the field day his plan of year-around feeding as follows:

This is planted at the rate of one-
of one acre per cow and sometimes again in February.
tober 15, he This is fed from February 1 to May 15.
Seed are harvested.
e rate of one Burr clover, with late soy beans or oats,
n on this from is planted in July and August and is used
and again in in February, March and April.
Beardless barley is sown at the rate of
from Septem- a half-acre per cow from October 15 to
te of two acres February 1 and used from January 15 to
r 15 to Febru- May 1.
Spring oats is sown at the rate of one-
the rate of an quarter acre per cow in February and
ember and Oc-

Agriculture - 1937
& Condition of

Alabama.

Evergreen, Ala., Courant
February 4, 1937

FARMER'S CONFERENCE TO BE HELD FEBRUARY 12, 1937

My dear Farmers:

Please don't forget the Farmers Conference that will be held at the County Training School, Friday, February 12, 1937.

Come and let us help you plan your farming program for 1937. Come and let us help you to get some money to grow your crops in 1937. A "Safe Farming Program" will be worked out for Conecuh and adopted. We want you to come so that we can learn about some of the things that you want and need.

It has been said, that the most blessed thing in the world is useful work. Whatever else the future holds for humankind, it must so order its life that all men and women everywhere shall have some constructive work to do each day and be permitted to do it. Some work, some income, some leisure in each human life is the goal we are striving for in almost every man's philosophy. And herein are rural people—the men and women who live on farms,—blessed beyond most other groups. The farmer, with his flocks and herds, his fields, orchards and gardens, always has work to do and work of a constructive, creative kind—a kind that varies with the seasons.

Here is a tentative program for you to be thinking about.

As the Negro farmer program for a family of five on a two-mule farm we recommend that he provide himself with two cows, four hogs, fifty chickens and that he produce the following items:

Corn, 280 bushels; Hay, 8 tons; Meat and lard. 600 pounds; Milk, 365 gallons; Butter, 104 pounds; Eggs, 150 dozen; Poultry, 208 pounds; Syrup 20 gallons; Garden, ¼ acre; Sweet potatoes, 40 bushels; Irish potatoes, 30 bushels; Fruit, 25 bushels; Oats, 4 acres; Legumes, Winter and Summer.

J. B. Jordan, Negro Co. Agent.

Sheffield, Ala., Daily
February 15, 1937

GOOBERS BACK IN LIMELIGHT AS CASH CROP

Dothan, Peanut Seat Of Alabama, Gains From Program

By A. F. MAHAN, JR.

DOTHAN, Feb. 15—(AP)—Peanuts, known across plantation lands since slavery days as "goobers," have become in recent years one of the South's major crops. The estimated 1936 value was $44,150,000.

In Alabama, of which this city is the "peanut capital," the crop has become third in value, being eclipsed only by cotton and corn. Agricultural experts say the same undoubtedly is true of other states, particularly Georgia, which leads in peanut production.

Uses, domestic and commercial, to which the lowly "goober" may be put are almost unlimited.

They go into candy, provide good hog feed, make butter popular in picnic sandwiches, and their oils are used commerically. Recently experiments have been made in treatment of infantile paralysis with peanut oil massages.

Parched and boiled "goobers" long have been a southern delicacy.

The "peanut belt" stretches from Virginia to Florida across to Texas and Oklahoma. It produced 1,300,540,000 pounds in 1936.

In 1936, the estimate of crop values issued by the United States Department of Agriculture follows:

State	Pounds	Value
Virginia	151,200,000	$ 5,746,000
N. Carolina	243,960,000	9,270,000
S. Carolina	8,160,000	343,000
Georgia	447,700,000	14,774,000
Florida	46,575,000	1,397,000
Tennessee	5,625,000	197,000
Alabama	255,060,000	7,397,000
Mississippi	14,120,000	790,000
Arkansas	9,350,000	411,000
Louisiana	7,680,000	392,000
Oklahoma	9,990,000	360,000
Texas	99,120,000	3,073,000

The U. S. Agriculture Department estimated the average value per pound in 1936 was 3.4 cents. This did not include subsidy payments for crop control cooperation or otherwise.

Acreage was reduced sharply in many states during the last crop years as compared to 1935, curtailing production as much as 10 to 20he a cent in some states. Peanuts' p among the easiest crops to cultivate, growing without aid of fertilizer in most southeastern soils. The vines make valuable hay, and hogs may be turned into peanut fields to do their own harvesting.

Oils are used principally as a vegetable compound substitutes and generally in cooking.

Dr. George Washington Carver, world-known negro scientist at Tuskegee Institute, began using peanut oil as a massage compound for treatment of infantile paralysis victims several years ago. He said "some wonderful results" were secured, but the treatment had not been sufficiently used to establish itself medically.

MR. MacRAE'S WINTER-GREEN PLAN

One of the out-in-front Southern leaders of his time is Mr. Hugh McRae, capitalist, developer and economist of Wilmington, N. C. Mr. MacRae not only is a successful business man and an imaginative thinker upon the every-day, everlasting problems of the South, but he is enterprising as a leader. He has ideas and likes to expound them and insist upon them. He knows how to write and, having no false modesty, doesn't hesitate to do it. He is in frequent contact with the editors of Southern newspapers—with regard to various economic questions. One finds his letters uniformly stimulating. He is a good prodder—that is to say, a good leader. Editors always like to hear from Mr. MacRae.

Recently The Advertiser had a note from Mr. MacRae enclosing some newspaper clippings about a demonstration of one of his favorite ideas at Invershiel, his plantation near Rocky Point, North Carolina. Says the Carolinian in his personal note to The Advertiser:

For the purpose of promoting the inescapable truth that "The South will come into its own when its fields are green in winter" I am sending a reprint about the Field Day at Invershiel. The statements of authorities give encouragement toward further effort and pgroress.

Con the South's devastating agricultural system—the base of its economic structure and its civilization—be changed for the better? Can efforts be coordinated toward that end?

Yo uare cordially invited to the next Field Day (or any day and in any manner convenient) to ascertain the facts and decide as to the incidental benefits from grazing livestock throughout teh year on Annual Crops.

There is no patent, no secrecy, no restriction. The program results from the piecing together of desirable practices from scattered sources.

Here's the story, as told by The Wilmington Star, which is familiar with the great work that Mr. MacRae is attempting:

Demonstration of a possible agricultural revolution for the entire South was witnessed yesterday by a large group of planters and persons interested in the development of Southern agriculture at Invershiel, dairy farm of Hugh McRae, Wilmington agriculturist, near Rocky Point.

Among those present at the field day were Dean I. O. Schaub, of State College, A. C. Kimery, dairy extension specialist, Prof. R. H. Ruffner, head of the department of animal husbandry of State College, and C. R. Dillard, farm manager of Penderlea, Resettlement Administration project near Willard.

During the morning the crowd which gathered at the farm where Mr. McRae has pioneered in the project of year-round grazing, toured the farm and heard the visiting agriculturist specialists from State College speak briefly.

Mr. McRae explained the program he follows at the farm as he advanced facts and figures to prove the truth of his motto that "The South Will Come Into Its Own When Its Fields Are Green In Winter."

From this point on we lift The Star's report bodily so that we may not spoil it by attempting an abstract of it:

Touring the farm the visitors saw the fields where the cows graze the entire year with the exception of those few days when the weather is so inclement it is not advisable to turn them into the fields. There were sixteen such days during the past year, Mr. MacRae explained. On these days the cattle are fed on silage taken from the fields.

Figures advanced during the talks at the field day tended to show that Mr. MacRae, following his plan, is able to produce milk at his farm at one-half the cost entailed by the average record-breaking farmer-dairyman in North Carolina.

"This plan could revolutionize the South if put into effect over the entire section," Mr. Kimrey said. "Not only would the economical raising of livestock in the South increas the amount of this section, but it would tend to take the South away from cash crops, solving two problems at once."

"Hugh MacRae has here a plan which could change the entire agriculture economic apect of the South," Dean I. O. Schaub said.

Other officials from State College said use of the plan is spreading over the southeast and especially in the southeastern part of North Carolina.

Mr. MacRae explained to the crowd attending the field day his plan of year-around feeding as follows:

From March 1 to April 15 he plants one-half acre of soy beans per cow he intends to feed, and grazes the cattle on this from June 1 to August 30. Seed are also harvested from these crops for the next year.

From July 15 to August 15, he sows more soy beans, and grazes the cattle on this from August 30 to November 15. Seed are again harvested.

From April 15 to July 30 he plants Sudan grass, and feeds the cows on it from June 1 to November 1. Seed are again harvested.

This is planted at the rate of one acre per cow and sometimes again in February. This is fed from February 1 to May 15. Seed are harvested.

Burr clover, with late soy beans or oats, is planted in July and August and is used again in in February, March and April.

Beardless barley is sown at the rate of a half-acre per cow from October 15 to February 1 and used from January 15 to May 1.

Spring oats is sown at the rate of one-quarter acre per cow in February and

March and is cut during May and fed green to the cows.

He also used as a supplemental crops desmodium, as an alternate for soy beans, Italian rye grasses, lespedeza, sweet clover, giant essex rape.

During the year from two to four crops occupy the same acreage, maturing in series and always providing the cattle with food.

A delicious luncheon was served the guests at the field. As a dessert course, fresh strawberry ice cream, made from milk from the Invershiel dairy, was served.

After luncheon the guests toured Castle Hayne, St. Helena and Penderlea, where they saw some of the ideas behind the project at Invershiel again put into practice.

"The thing about this plan," Mr. Kimrey said, "is that though some farmers may find their land will not allow them to follow the entire, exact plan Mr. MacRae uses, the idea as a whole is applicable to the South and can be the means of bringing this section into its own."

,d uAwa ,a,h ry,youy

The Spartanburg Herald, published in the Piedmont of South Carolina, citing the example of Mr. MacRae, says in an editorial:

"The Herald gives its hearty endorsement to this brief code for agriculture in the South. Had it been adopted and been practiced in the Piedmont forty or fifty years ago it would not be necessary for the Federal government to spend large sums of money, as it is now doing, on soil eorsion projects, and the Piedmont, in addition to raising its full quota of cotton, would also be producing and processing large quantities of cattle and hogs.

"If all landowners had realized a half century ago that the Piedmont would come into its own when its fields were green in winter and had faithfully followed that plan of agriculture the lands would not today be seamed with gullies and large acreages would not be either abandoned or unprofitably cultivated because of sheet erosion.

"Eastern and western farmers, traveling in South Carolina and other Southern States in winter, have been amazed by seeing so much land with hardly a sprig of green upon it. They have asked whether it was impossible to grow winter crops They have formed the impression tha cover crops will not grow in many section of the South. Yet the contrary is true In his letter, Mr. MacRae suggests the keeping of the fields green in winter by sowing such grains as wheat, cold-proof oats Abruzzi rye and beardless barley. Foi grazing and soil improvement crimson clover, vetch, spotted bur clover and sweet clover are recommended.

"Many farmers in the Piedmont have begun the construction of terraces on their lands. That is the first step in the prevention of soil erosion. The second, and equally imortant step will be the sowing of winter grains and legumes on all available lands in order that the rainfall may walk down the hills and the fields may be kept green in winter."

Headland, Ala., Farmer
May 20, 1937

Tenant Farmers Get Help Everywhere Save In Capitol

The share-cropper and the landless farmer are getting a lot of publicity whether they ever get anything else or not. Writers and investigators, North and South, are making a thoroughgoing study of a system of farming which came into being at the close of the Civil War and now embraces pretty much the whole of the South.

But little headway is being made with the plan to "restore ownership" to thousands of tenant farmer families, notwithstanding that the movement has been endorsed by the churches, the colleges, the newspapers, and by organizations of business and professional men and women who have been seeking remedies for some of the ills that beset the Southern Country. The most that Washington has been able to do up to now has been to suggest that an appropriation of $10,000,000—think of that!—be set aside with which to begin the work of making land owners out of the most capable of the tenants and sharecroppers. This act is equivalent to appropriating $25.00 a month for expenses and upkeep of the White House.

An intelligent article in the current issue of the Atlantic Monthly throws considerable light on tenant farming and sharecropping in the Delta Region of the South, where the one crop is cotton. The plan used along the Mississippi is not much different, it appears from a reading of this article, from that which has been in use in this section for so many years. The landlord and the sharecropper enter into a contract in which the one furnishes the land, the seed, tools, stock, etc., while the other agrees to furnish the labor. The tenant, of course, is furnished during the year, and at the harvest season the profits, if any, are equally divided between the partners.

This picture gives a clear picture of the negro of that region. It states that he is shiftless, gambles, drinks whiskey, steals, disregards the marriage laws, and thinks little of the prevalence among his kind of social diseases. If he is given $1,000.00 in the Fall of the year as his share of the profits he will be penniless before Christmas, and if the operations for that year run into a loss instead of a profit, his share of the debt is discharged by the simple act of getting himself another landlord, who, it appears, does not assume his indebtedness as is frequently done in Southeast Alabama.

The article goes to show that the negro of the Delta Region, where the richest land in the world is said to lie, is far from being capable of managing his own farm and conducting the business affairs incident to land ownership. At the same time, this article points out, the sharecropper does something that no other class of workers in this or any other country can do. He makes a living by working no more than 120 days a year.

This situation does not, however, prevail all over the South. There are negroes in Henry County who are first-rate farmers, and it would seem that the colored race in this section has made advances considerably beyond those made by the negroes of the Delta Country.

This article does not deal with the white sharecroppers, many of whom in recent years have been reduced to the status of day laborers—the lowest paid white laborers in the world. It is this class—and the deserving members of the colored race — that would profit from farm ownership under an arrangement worked out by Senator Bankhead but which the Washington Administration has has been so strongly disinclined to adopt.

Alabama.

Agriculture—1937
Condition of.

Two Out Of Three Farmers Tenants; Remedy Of Situation To Be Sought

With two of every three farmers in Alabama tenants, and with one of each five having an income of less than $400 a year, including the value of goods produced and consumed at home, it was believed here yesterday that the convening of the President's special committee on farm tenancy at Montgomery Wednesday would be of considerable interest to all who derive their sustenance through agriculture.

The committee will meet in this city for one day only, and will conduct an open hearing for the entire Southeast. All persons and organizations interested in presenting their views on how to remedy the situation brought about by farm tenancy system will be welcomed. Organizations intending to send representatives are asked to present their opinions in writing for more deliberate consideration later. Individual tenant farmers and landowners who have given thought to the problem are especially invited.

Secretary of Agriculture Henry A. Wallace, committee chairman, sent the following message to Montgomery:

"The committee desires to obtain a comprehensive picture of the tenancy problems in different parts of the country and as broad a cross section of public opinion as possible. We hope especially that at each hearing we shall obtain the opinions of farmers, both tenants and landowners, as well as other interested groups which have given thought to this important problem."

It was pointed out that, in Alabama alone, the number of tenant farmers had increased from 166,000 to 176,000 from 1930 to 1935, and that, in this period thousands of Alabama farms were lost to their owner-operators through mortgage foreclosure and delinquent tax actions.

The committee meeting here Wednesday, at the Whitley Hotel, will be one of five to be held in as many cities during the first two weeks of this month. The meetings, in each instance, will be conducted by Dr. W. W. Alexander, acting administrator of the Resettlement Administration, and Dr. L. C. Gray, executive secretary of the committee. Information and opinions gathered in the hearing will be considered in preparation of the committee's report to President Roosevelt.

The following topics have been suggested by the committee as appropriate for discussion, but those attending the hearing may make statements on any other subject vital to the farm tenancy problem.

Topics suggested follow:

What can States do to improve present rental contracts, through legislation and through education of landowners and tenants?

How should tenants be recompensed for improvements made on the farm, or penalized for depletion of land?

"What are the chief difficulties facing tenants who wish to become owners?

"How can the Federal Government help tenants acquire farms, by loans for purchase of farms, or by public acquisition of farms and lease to individuals?

"What are the possibilities of cooperative farming by tenants?

"What interest rates and amortization plans should be applied to government loans to tenant farmers or cooperates?

"What type of education is needed to help become successful owner-operators?

"Can the present policies of the government in regard to farm credit, AAA benefits, etc., be shaped to favor farm ownership?"

Widened Credit Urged To Solve Tenancy Puzzle

Graves And State's Farm Leaders Offer Plan To President's Commission

All Groups Heard

Program Authored Here Proposes Large Fund To Aid Non-Landowner

An assemblage of tenant farmers, landowners, agricultural authorities, newspaper editors, sociologists and others, numbering more than 350, yesterday contributed an abundance of ideas on farm tenancy at hearings conducted here by President Roosevelt's commission on farm tenancy.

The hearings, for the southeastern States, were conducted by Dr. L. C. Gray, executive secretary of the commission, with James E. Chappell, publisher of The Birmingham News Age-Herald, and Dr. F. D. Patterson, also members of the commission, in attendance.

Headed by a proposed plan, offered jointly by Gov. Graves, Commissioner of Agriculture Robert J. Goode, Dr. L. N. Duncan, president of the Alabama Polytechnic Institute, and Dean Funchess, of the Alabama experiment station, numerous suggested methods of carrying out the objectives of the Bankhead-Jones tenant farm bill were made for the committee's consideration by representatives of various organizations.

Graves-Duncan Plan

The Graves-Duncan program called for an expenditure of $50,000,000 a year, to be used to extend the scope of existing farm credit facilities of the Federal government in such a manner that tenants, who do not now have collateral or capital, can take advantage of it. The existing extension division would be called upon to provide supervision for tenants borrowing under the plan, and no new Federal agencies would be required under the proposal.

Gov. Graves paid tribute to the "new spirit of human-mindedness" which he said was opening the way to a solution of the tenancy problem in the South.

Members and officials of the Alabama Farmers Union, the Southern Tenant Farmers Union, and the Sharecroppers Union, as well as the Farmers Educational and Cooperative Union of America, took a prominent part in the discussions and while pledging cooperation with any sound tenant-aid program adopted, were unanimous in their demand for a broader and more comprehensive approach than is contemplated in the Bankhead bill.

One union leader advocated the appropriation of $10,000,000,000, to be used for providing homesteads for those who do not now own their own lands.

Members of the tenant unions also called for a recognition of civil libertiesa in the South and extension of the franchise through abolition of the poll tax.

Representatives of the governors of Arkansas, South Carolina, Mississippi and Georgia spoke as well as representatives of a number of colleges. The hearings were at the Scottish Rite Temple, on Dexter Avenue.

For Planned Economy

Oscar Johnston, former manager of the Federal cotton pool, and manager of the world's largest cotton plantation at Scott, Miss., spoke for Gov. Hugh White, and the Delta Chamber of Commerce. Declaring that the problems of Southern agriculture would not be solved unless a "planned economy of controlled production is adopted," Johnston stressed the fluctuations in price of cotton as a major factor in the increase in cotton farm tenancy.

Johnston also advocated producer and consumer cooperatives among farmers as a means of facilitating the purchase of fertilizer, farm machinery, and other supplies, but said that he was opposed to the communal ownership of land and the profits of agriculture.

It was said the committee would offer no conclusions from information of suggestions received at the various hearings throughout the Nation, but would present its findings to President Roosevelt for possible Congressional action.

Hearings yet to be held will be at Indianapolis, Jan. 7; Lincoln, Neb., Jan. 9, and San Francisco, Jan. 12. L. L. Wilson, assistant secretary of agriculture, and A. G. Black, chief of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, were to lead the hearings at the points named.

RURAL EDUCATION URGED BY ROBERTS

Georgia Farm Commissioner Says Better Roads Also Needed

MONTGOMERY, Ala., Jan. 6.—(AP)—Southeastern farmers today demanded an active rather than a passive part in agricultural rehabilitation work being carried on by the federal government at a regional hearing here before President Roosevelt's committee on farm tenancy.

"Don't do things for us, give us the means of doing them for ourselves" was a theme constantly reiterated by white and negro farmers from Alabama, Arkansas, South Carolina and other southeastern states gathered here today to discuss methods of solving the farm tenancy problem.

More than 300 planters, editors and state and county officials were present for the meeting, one of a series of fact-finding conferences being held at key cities over the nation.

Columbus Roberts, Georgia commissioner of agriculture, spoke this afternoon, urging increased governmental aid for rural education.

"If the farm youth is to become a landowner later in life, he must have education," Roberts said.

The Georgian said a better road program for highways into agricultural areas would aid farm prosperity, as the farmers could get better prices for products through quicker marketing.

GRAVES' PLAN IS CONSIDERED

Tenant Aid Suggestions by Governor, Agricultural Leaders, Before Group

President Roosevelt's committee on farm tenacy Thursday studied a $50,000,000 program of credit extension to land tenants, proposed by Gov. Bibb Graves and agricultural leaders of Alabama at a meeting of the committee here Wednesday.

The plan would link state extension services with the resettlement administration and other government rehabilitation bureaus, making a $50,000,000 appropriation available for loans to farm tenants without capital or collateral.

Loans would be made through the Federal Land bank, under the supervision of county farm agents, in the plan prepared by Governor Graves; R. G. Goode, state commissioner of agriculture; Dr. L. N. Duncan, president of Alabama Polytechnic institute; and Dean M. J. Funchess, director of the Alabama experiment station.

Diverse Picture Given

Dr. L. C. Gray, executive secretary of the president's committee, said his group had received a "diverse picture" of land tenancy in the southeast, after the meeting here with about 300 editors, farmers and educators. He will go into the mid-west this weekend for meetings at Indianapolis and Lincoln, Neb., and will end the series of conferences at San Francisco.

Findings of the committee will furnish data for the federal administration's policy on farm tenancy in the nation. White and negro farmers voiced a desire for a more active part in agricultural rehabilitation work at the conference here yesterday.

Chance to Work Wanted

"Don't do things for us, give us the means of doing them for ourselves" was the sentiment expressed by more than one farmer who spoke before the committee. Parity prices on farm products also was suggested as a means of the farmer effecting his own rehabilitation. Southeastern planters also felt renewed hope for a solution of the farm tenancy problem after President Roosevelt referred to the need for legislation on the question in his message to congress Wednesday.

"Many thousands of tenant farmers, indeed most of them," the president said, "with some financial assistance and with some advice and training, can be made self-supporting on land which can eventually belong to them. The nation would be wise to offer them that chance instead of permitting them to go along as they

do now, year after year, with neither future security as tenants nor hope of ownership of their homes . . ."

Committee members considered Roosevelt's reference to the problem they are studying. "The president emphasized the most important point in the farm tenancy problem when he mentioned security," Dr. Gray said. "Whether the tenant owns his farm in so many dollars and cents, he wants to know that he is secure there. Though of course, there is no substitute for personal ownership in this country to produce a feeling of security."

Federal Tenancy Confab Is Held Near Jeff Davis Site With Tom Heflin, Graves

MONTGOMERY—(ANP)—In the Scottish Rite Temple, located within the shadow of the hill upon which stands the Capitol of Alabama, in whose historic halls Jefferson Davis took the oath as President of the Confederacy, several hundred white and colored people gathered today to discuss some of the problems of farm tenancy.

It was a strange gathering. At one place stood the fighting Governor of Alabama, who dares to say, "I am Governor of all the people in my state—white and black!" And in another, the proud exponent of the Bourbon South, Ex-Senator Thomas Heflin, whose senatorial poise is undiminished even in defeat. Between these two extrmes were Negro leaders, farmers and tenants; all unafraid and ready to "talk" and Dr. L. C. Gray, secretary of the President's Tenancy Committee, whose quiet dignity as the presiding officer, reflected that new spirit of our Government which Gov. Graves, in his welcome address referred to as the "human-mindedness' of our great President.

When Dr. Gray received the gavel, his first act was to invite these two members of the President's Tenancy committee who were present—Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute, and J E. Chappell, publisher of the Birmingham News-Age-Herald — to have seats beside him at the presiding officer's table.

Among the speakers were representatives of the governors of five Southern States, three State Commissioners of Agriculture and officers of such organizations as the Southern Sharecroppers Union, the Southern Tenant Farmers Union, the Southern Policy Committee, the Farmers Educational and Cooperative Union, the (Mississippi) Delta Chamber of Commerce and the Hillhouse (Mississippi) Plantation Wright Johnson, speaking for the Sharecroppers Union, not only urged the unionization of farm laborers, but emphatically stated that there should be "equal economic opportunities for Negroes and whites alike" and full voting privileges accorded the Negroes of the South.

Other union representatives and several white land owners appealed for better treatment for Negro tenants and laborers.

Among the proposals submitted for improving the condition of tenants were revolving credit facilities to aid in purchasing homes, better contracts between landlords and tenants, Government loans to tenant farmers for tools, live-stock, seed, etc; inclusion of farm laborers under the Social Security Act; minimum wage laws for farm laborers and Government aid to encourage cooperatives.

There was a tense moment when, late in the afternoon, former Senator Heflin arose to speak. Negroes in the audience leaned forward to catch every word for they expected a vitrolic reply to some of the addresses made earlier in the day which advocated justice and the ballot for Negroes. The former Senator from Alabama, however, confined his attack to "entrenched wealth in Wall Street," which he held responsible for panics and the present plight of the agricultural South. There was, however, a flash of hesitant uneasiness on the Senator's face when, at the beginning of his remarks, he glanced at the Negro group and yet could not avoid using the customary expression, "Ladies and Gentlemen."

There was another tense moment when a white haired, Alabama land owner, eighty-two years of age, made an earnest plea that the Government, in bringing about the needed reforms in the South, not overlook the sentimenal attachments between some of the white families and the Negroes who live on their plantations. "My family," he said, "has lived on the same plantation for more than a hundred years and some of the colored families on our place are in the third generation." And then, after a pause, he continued, "I always refer to these folks as 'colored' because I have found out they don't like to be called 'niggers' and another thing, I make it a habit when I enter their homes on our plantation to awavs take off mv hat. I believe in treating colored people as human beings."

Negroes in the audience led the applause following these remarks.

Dr. Patterson was presented and made an earnest appeal for better educational facilities for Negroes and whites in the rural sections. Other Negro speakers included T. M. Campbell and V. C. Turner of Tuskegee Institute and R. W. Brown of Calhoun, Alabama.

During the luncheon-recsss period, the Negro representatives were guests of President H. C. Trenholm of the Alabama State College.

Selma, Ala. Times
February 5, 1937

Colored Farmers To Meet Here Saturday

All colored farmers of Dallas County are urged to attend the Soil Conservation meeting which will be held at the Court House at 10 o'clock Saturday morning. This meeting is being held to discuss the 1937 Soil Conservation Program and every colored farmer is asked to attend, it was said Friday by S. W. Boynton, negro county agent.

Agriculture – 1937
Condition of.

A.A.A. Conference of Negro Editors.

AGRICULTURE BUREAU SEEKS AID OF PRESS

Newsmen Acquainted With Proposed Program Of Activity

WASHINGTON, Dec. 10—A conference of Race editors under the joint auspices of the Agricultural Adjustment administration and the Farm Security administration, was held in Washington last week.

The purpose was to acquaint the newspapermen with the activities and proposed program of the two bureaus insofar as they affect the Race farmers.

The delegates were asked to cooperate with these two bodies in educating the Race farmer into taking advantage of the services offered by the agricultural department, and to help the department work out a program of action so that the Race tenant farmer and sharecropper will get the full percentage or proportion of the benefits to come from the moneys donated by the government for farm service.

Wallace Welcomes Delegates

The meeting convened Wednesday with a short address by secretary of agriculture, Henry A. Wallace, who welcomed the delegates and asked them to give serious thought to the program and to try in every possible way to assist in making it a success.

During the two-day session, talks were delivered by H. R. Tolley, AAA administrator; Dr. Will W. Alexander, administrator of the Re-Settlement administration; Dr. I. W. Duggin, acting director of the southern division, AAA; Paul Mallos, assistant administrator of the Farm Security administration; Joseph B. Evans, field representative of the Farm Security administration; Mrs. Mayme Osby Brown, editor, Louisiana Weekly; Dr. C. W. Warburton, administrator of the Extension service; J. B. Pierce, field supervisor Extension service, Hampton; T. M. Campbell, field supervisor Extension service, Tuskegee Institute; E. A. Miller, assistant to didector of the southern division, AAA; James P. Davis, head field officer, AAA; Mrs. R. R. Moten, field officer, AAA; A. L. Holsey, field officer AAA; Major J. O. Walker, C. A. Franklin, editor Kansas City Call; S. B. Bledsoe, chief of information service, AAA, and John Fisher, chief of information service, FSA.

The frankest and most enlightening talk of the conference was that of Dr. Will W. Alexander, administrator of the Re-Settlement administration. He admitted the unfair treatment of the Race tenant and sharecropper in the south, but showed a sincere desire to remedy these injustice. He also admitted that all benefit checks in the past have not gone to the Race sharecropper; but since 1936 the agricultural department has attempted to correct this by making the benefit check to the tenant or sharecropper himself. These checks are sent to the county agent who delivers them to the person for whom the check is drawn. Heretofore they were made payable to the landowner, who was supposed to have divided them with the sharecropper or tenant. While he admitted that this does not eliminate all of the possibility of injustice to the sharecropper, it is a step in the right direction.

Need Guidance

In summing up the Race farmer's real need, Dr. Alexander set forth these facts: They need guidance in buying land; agencies must be set up to help them find suitable land, and to teach them how to plant it; there must be credit machinery set up from which they can obtain loans to purchase the land and buy implements to farm it; they must be further taught to raise truck gardens so that they can have sufficient food—this is the most important thing—and that they must be taught to raise other crops on the remaining land to pay off the loans and meet other necessities of life.

Up to now the Farm administration has been able to place between 400,000 and 500,000 farmers on this type of land. They have gotten better results out of the Race farmer than the white. They have tried to teach each Race tenant to buy a good mule, a wagon, and a stove—with a good mule they can plow the fields; with a wagon they can deliver the crops to the market, and with a good stove they can prepare meals sufficient to maintain good health and follow an orderly diet. Before the government stepped in many of these farmers were using steers for plowing, which proved very unsatisfactory in handling the work.

Outbid Race Tenants

Dr. Alexander further stated that they are trying to protect the interest of the tenant by securing longer leases from the landowner in order that rent might not be raised after improvements have been made by the tenants on the land. He admitted that they had run into a lot of trouble trying to get good leases. He also revealed that the Race farmer was being crowded out of the rich Delta lands by whites who have come in from the drought-ridden areas with just enough capital to out-bid the poorer Race tenants.

Authentic figures were quoted telling of the health conditions of the people living in these areas, and it was proven that these conditions are unbelievably bad because of improper diet and lack of medical attention. The Re-Settlement administration is experimenting with medical co-ops and has already set up co-ops in 15 of the counties where the government's rehabilitation program is being carried out. Each tenant pays $12 per year for medical attention for his family. This is paid into the co-op just as soon as the farmer makes his crop.

Plight of Families

Another graphic point brought out by Dr. Alexander was the plight of the 1,200,000 farm families who were on relief in 1934-35. He stated that all of these farmers were not on relief because of the depression, but most of them were there because of the chronic conditions under which they live—by chronic conditions he meant their complete ignorance; bad lands from which they could not even eke out a bare living; the uncertainty of the prices which they would receive for crops raised; and some few were sadly affected by the use of machinery and the change in farming technique; while still others were made to suffer on account of the drought. Dr. Alexander then asked: "What are we going to do with these people?" He admitted, however, that no solution was available. "In my estimation," he added, "it would take over 20 years to rehabilitate all of these people. The government does not have the money to buy lands for all of these people."

In speaking of the city-people who were on relief, many of whom were returning to the Southland, Dr. Alexander said: "I advise them not to return to the farm because agriculture cannot absorb them, and after these people have spent some time in the city they do not make good farmers, and are only creating a larger problem in the agricultural areas."

Not Social Minded

He feels, too, that generally speaking ministers are not social-minded, and really have little interest in the welfare of the tenant farmer and sharecropper. He said: "I do not deal with the ministers in my rural housing plans; I have had much experience with them years ago." He further believes that the cotton picking machines will eventually be successful. This will create a further problem. Their only fault now is that they drop too much of the cotton picked, and pick up a lot of trash.

The government voted $10,000,000 for experimental farming for this year. This is only enough for 2,000 loans; these loans will be made in 300 counties of 17 states, and there will be an average of about 7 loans to a county. The Race farmer is benefiting from this in proportion to the number in each community. There will be an additional $25,000,000 for this work in 1938; and in 1939 $50,000,000 will be made available. This money has already been voted by Congress.

Statistics how thast one-third of all farmers live on farms producing cotton, and there are 700,000 tenant farmers in the cotton belt—with their families they total 10,000,000 people working in cotton. The average annual income of these families is $300 or $60 per person.

Dr. Alexander asked the newspapers to disseminate news to the Race farmers in the South pleading with them to take advantage of the opportunities offered by the government to better their condition.

First Conference on Farm

Mrs. Mayme Osby Brown, editor of the Louisiana Weekly, told of the first newspaper conference on the farm situation which was called for the Race papers of Louisiana by Mr. Holsey, one of the farm administration field men. This meeting was called to work out a program of cooperation between the press and the Agricultural Department for disseminating news of its activities to the farmers of the Louisiana delta so that their living conditions could be bettered; she also painted a very vivid picture of the conditions in the cane fields of Louisiana with particular emphasis placed on how the state supervisors had closed down all the WPA projects in order to force the Negroes to return to the fields and cut sugar cane. They were threatened with loss of their WPA jobs if they did not do so. Whites were not wanted on these jobs because the housing situation was so bad on the cane plantations that they did not want the whites to live under such squalid conditions.

Evans Gives Data

Joseph H. B. Evans, administrative assistant of the Farm Security Administration, gave an informative statistical talk on housing projects and told of the functions of the Farm Adjustment Service Bureau set up in each state to adjust the debts for the tenant farmers and sharecroppers, and to help them work out some means by which these debts can be paid without undue hardships.

It is hoped that a workable plan will emerge as a result of this conference by which the Race press of the country will be willing to send out news and releases among the Race farmers so that they will be made aware of the advantages offered by the Farm Administration Program.

The delegates in attendance were: V. J. Washington, Chicago Defender; C. A. Franklin, Kansas City Call; Thomas W. Young, Norfolk Journal and Guide; J. E. Mitchell, St. Louis Argus; Roscoe Dunjee, Black Dispatch; William A. Fowlkes, Atlanta World and associated papers; M. D. Potter, Tampa Bulletin; Mrs. Mayme Osby Brown, Louisiana Weekly; Claude A. Barnett, Associated Negro Press; Robert Vann, the Pittsburgh Courier; I. M. A. Myers, Palmetto Leader; W. C. Buford, Louisville Leader; Dr. C. B. Powell, The Amsterdam News; Arthur M. Carter, Washington Afro-American; W. C. Hueston, Washington Eagle; Fred R. Moore, New York Age; Carter Wesley, Houston Informer; E. Washington Rhodes, Philadelphia Tribune; Leon R. Harris, Modern Farmer; Robert A. Pelham, Capital News Service; Dr. Kelly Miller, Howard university; Louis R. Lautier, Washington, D. C.; T. M. Campbell, Tuskegee Institute; Ralph Matthews, The Afro-American, J. B. Pierce, Hampton Institute; Charles E. Hall, Bureau of the Census; Florence R. Murray, The Washington Tribune; Dutton Ferguson, Flash Weekly; Mrs. Robert R. Moton, National Association of Colored Women; James P. Davis, Little Rock, Ark.; Albon L. Holsey, Tuskegee Institute; Joseph H. B. Evans, Farm Security Administration; A. Atkinson, Agricultural Adjustment Administration

Negro Editors Attend Farm Conference At Dept. Of Agriculture

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Under joint auspices of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration and the Farm Security Administration, a conference of Negro editors was held at the Department of Agriculture here Wednesday and Thursday. The purpose was to acquaint the editors with the program of the department as it relates to Negro farmers and to get suggestions from the newspapermen as to how the department can be of greater service.

Opening at 9:30 a. m., Wednesday, the meeting was called to order by A. D. Steuman, director, Division of Information of the A. A. A. Secretary of Agriculture Henry A. Wallace was presented and brought greetings and remarks to the conference. He was followed by AAA Administrator H. R. Tolley who spoke on "AAA Objectives" and Dr. Will W. Alexander, who spoke on "The Farm Security Administration." Following general discussion the conference was adjourned for the morning.

The afternoon session Wednesday opened at 2 p. m., with call to order by Dr. Alexander. The following addresses were delivered: "Dr. I. W. Duggan, acting director, Southern Division, A. A. A., on "The 1938 Agricultural Conservation Program and the Cotton Situation;" Paul Maris, assistant administrator, FSA, on "Tenant Purchase And Rural Rehabilitation Programs;" Joseph E. B. Evans, field representative, "Field Work Among Negroes under FSA;" Mrs. Mayme Osby Brown, editor of the Louisiana Weekly, New Orleans, on "The Louisiana Press Conference." Following discussion, the conference was adjourned for the day.

Thursday, the morning session opened with an address on "The Extension Service" by Dr. C. W. Warburton, and on "Extension Work Among Negroes" by J. B. Pierce, and T. M. Campbell, field supervisors of Extension Service at Hampton and Tuskegee Institutes, respectively. These were followed by remarks on "Negro FSA Projects" by Major J. O. Walker and on "Educational Program of the Southern Division, AAA" by E. A. Miller, assistant to the director of the Southern Division AAA. James P. Davis, head field officer, and Mrs. R. R. Moton and A. L. Holsey, field officers of the AAA, joined in discusion of the subject after which adjournment came.

The afternoon and closing session opened with a discusion on "Conducting An Agricultural Section In Negro Newspapers" by C. E. Franklin, editor of the Kansa City Call. Descriptions of agricultural publications and information service were given by S. B. Bledsoe, and John Fisher, chiefs of the Information Service of the AAA and FSA respectively, following which general discussion on "A Suggested Program Of Cooperation With The Negro Press" was held.

Among the papers and their representatives present at the conference were:

V. J. Washington, Chicago Defender; C. A. Franklin, Editor Kansas City Call; Thos. W. Young, Norfolk Journal and Guide; J. E. Mitchell, editor, St. Louis Argus; Roscoe Dungee, editor Oklahoma Black Dispatch; William A. Fowlkes, Atlanta Daily World; M. D. Potter, editor Tampa Bulletin; Mrs. Mayme Osby Brown, editor, Louisiana Weekly; Claude A. Barnett, director, Associated Negro Press; I. M. A. Myers, Palmetto Leader; W. C. Buford, Louisville Leader; Dr. C. B. Powell, publisher, Amsterdam News; Arthur M. Carter, Washington Afro-American; Fred R. Moore, editor, The New Age; W. C. Hueston, Washington Eagle; Carter Wesley, editor, Houston Informer; E. Washington Rhodes, editor, Philadelphia Tribune; Leon R. Harris, editor, Modern Farmer; Robert A. Pelham, Capital News Service; Dr. Kelly Miller, Louis R. Lautier, columnists; Charles E. Hall, Bureau of Census; Florence R. Murray, city editor, The Washington Tribune; Dutton Ferguson, editor, Flash Magazine.

A.A.A. — Soil Conservation.

Agriculture - 1937
Condition of.

Works for A.A.A.

MRS. ROBT. R. MOTON

Mrs. Robert R. Moton, wife of the president emeritus of Tuskegee institute, who has recently joined the staff of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration, and who spent the week before the holidays in Oklahoma and at Langston university, brings to her new task a long period of public service and accomplishments in connection with various civic and welfare movements among our people.

Mrs. Moton's work with the AAA will be to contact Negro farm women in the southern states to find out how their families have benefitted under its several provisions.

Through the soil conservation program, the government is offering special benefits for retiring soil depleting crops and replacing them with soil conserving and rebuilding crops. It is the government's hope that this plan will help the farm families to grow fruit and vegetables which, as far as possible will provide a balanced ration for the farm home.

The economic and health building aspect of soil conservation will be presented by Mrs. Moton to Negro farm women.

During Dr. Moton's regime at Tuskegee, Mrs. Moton served as president of the Alabama Federation of Women's Clubs and under her leadership the federation secured public contributions and state aid for the erection of the girl's reform school at Mt. Meings, Alabama.

She is also an active member of the executive committee of the Commission on Interracial Cooperation.

Montgomery, Ala., Advertiser
January 13, 1937

Negro Farm Leaders Of 5 States Meet

Conference At Tuskegee Held To Discuss Soil Program

TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE, ALA., Jan. 12.—(Special)—Negro extension service leaders from five Southern States concluded a two-day intensive conference here today after hearing AAA officials and specialists outline the 1937 Soil Conservation Program.

The conference opened Monday with E. A Miller, assistant director, Southern Division, AAA, presiding. Miller brought a special message from C. A. Cobb, director of the Southern Division AAA. who urged negro leaders to cooperate with the government in helping to disseminate information concerning the details of the soil conservation program among negro farmers.

In an address of welcome, Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute, stated that Tuskegee was glad to open its doors to the AAA officials and visiting officials from Auburn, who were also in attendance. "Our government is now doing something very real to assist the South in solving some of its serious agricultural problems," said Dr. Patterson.

"Twelve Southern States represent 46.6 per cent of the farm population of the country and 28.7 per cent of the nation's farm income," said Charles A. Sheffield, field agent, U. S. Extension Service, Washington, D. C., in addressing the conference.

James P. Davis, field officer, AAA, stressed the importance of negro participation in the soil conservation program because "the five States represented here—Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi and South Carolina — account for more than half of the farm acreage operated by negroes in the entire country. Negro farmers cultivate either as owners or tenants 37,500,000 acres in the country and in these five Southern States, 18,760,000 acres.

Thomas L. Ayres, senior agricultural economist, AAA and T. M. Gachet, junior administration assistant, Southern Division, AAA, took charge and turned the conference into a training school.

Montgomery, Ala. Journal
January 13, 1937

Soil Plan Urged On Negro Farmers

TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE, Ala. Jan. 13.—Negro extension service leaders of the southeast today had returned home with admonitions of leaders to promote co-operation in the 1937 soil conservation program in their minds, following a two-day meeting here.

The importance of negro farmers in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi and South Carolina and their need for help through soil improvement was stressed by speakers. These included: E. A Miller, assistant director of the southern division of the agricultural adjustment administration, who presided; Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee institute; James P. Davis, AAA field officer; Thomas L. Ayres, senior agricultural economist and T. M. Gachet, junior administration assistant of the AAA's southern division.

SOIL PROGRAM IN STATE ENLARGED

Field Activities Extended During Past Year, Report Reveals

AUBURN, ALA., Jan. 3.—(Special)—Field activities of the Soil Conservation Service in Alabama were considerably enlarged during the past fiscal year, it is revealed in the annual report of H. H. Bennett, chief of the Service, to the Secretary of Agriculture, made public today.

The number of demonstration projects in the State was increased to 3 and the area of privately owned land under cooperative agreements was increased to 120,941 acres. A total of 11 CCC camps are assigned to the Soil Conservation Service in the State.

From a technical standpoint, the demonstration program of the Service remained unchanged during the year, continuing the introduction of such beneficial farming practices as strip cropping, contour tillage, contour furrowing, terracing, woodland and gully planting, and the retirement of steep slopes and badly eroded areas from cultivation.

In cooperation with the Alabama Extension Service, practical information on erosion control was made available to the farmers throughout the State.

Experience and scientific experiments have proved that farming practices that conserve soil and water have a directly beneficial effect on the control of floods and the alleviation of drouth conditions, Bennett says in the report.

The upland soils of a watershed, he points out, constitute a storage reservoir capable of absorbing or retaining enough water to prevent, or at least greatly reduce, critical floods in lower drainageways, which are due in large part to concentration in stream channels of rapid surface run-off. Proved and adaptable procedures to hold water in the soil are now available, the report adds.

Negro Farm Leaders Of 5 States Meet

1-13-37

Conference At Tuskegee Held To Discuss Soil Program

TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE, ALA., Jan. 12.—(Special)—Negro extension service leaders from five Southern States concluded a two-day intensive conference here today after hearing AAA officials and specialists outline the 1937 Soil Conservation Program.

The conference opened Monday with E. A Miller, assistant director, Southern Division, AAA, presiding. Miller brought a special message from C. A. Cobb, director of the Southern Division AAA. who urged negro leaders to cooperate with the government in helping to disseminate information concerning the details of the soil conservation program among negro farmers.

In an address of welcome, Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute, stated that Tuskegee was glad to open its doors to the AAA officials and visiting officials from Auburn, who were also in attendance. "Our government is now doing something very real to assist the South in solving some of its serious agricultural problems," said Dr. Patterson.

"Twelve Southern States represent 46.6 per cent of the farm population of the country and 28.7 per cent of the nation's farm income," said Charles A. Sheffield, field agent, U. S. Extension Service, Washington, D. C., in addressing the conference.

James P. Davis, field officer, AAA, stressed the importance of negro participation in the soil conservation program because "the five States represented here—Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi and South Carolina — account for more than half of the farm acreage operated by negroes in the entire country. Negro farmers cultivate either as owners or tenants 37,500,000 acres in the country and in these five Southern States, 18,760,000 acres.

Thomas L. Ayres, senior agricultural economist, AAA and T. M. Gachet, junior administration assistant of the AAA's southern division, took charge and turned the conference into a training school.

MONTGOMERY, ALA., JOURNAL
JAN. 13, 1937 J19

Soil Plan Urged On Negro Farmers

TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE, Ala. Jan. 13.—Negro extension service leaders of the southeast today had returned home with admonitions of leaders to promote co-operation in the 1937 soil conservation program in their minds, following a two-day meeting here.

The importance of negro farmers in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi and South Carolina and their need for help through soil improvement was stressed by speakers. These included: E. A Miller, assistant director of the southern division of the agricultural adjustment administration, who presided; Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee institute; James P. Davis, AAA field officer; Thomas L. Ayres, senior agricultural economist and T. M. Gachet, junior administration assistant of the AAA's southern division.

THE NEGRO AND SOIL CONSERVATION

Last week at a conference in Prairie View representatives of the Government presented to Negro Agricultural Extension leaders of Arkansas, Oklahoma and Texas the details of the 1937 Soil Conservation Program to be taken back to their various communities. The same Government officials had presented the program to the Extension leaders of Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, Alabama and South Carolina, assembled at Tuskegee the three days preceding their trip to Texas.

It had been predicted by the Republican die-hards that the New Deal would turn its back upon Negroes as soon as Roosevelt was re-elected. But the program announced shows that the President and those responsible for the agricultural program are giving more thought to Negroes instead of less. This year even the sharecropper will get his share of the conservation check direct, so that "dee ducks" won't devour it before he ever sees it. That's a notable step in advance and we venture to say that no one could have achieved it in the South except a Democratic administration.

The big difficulty in the South has been that cotton is practically the only crop. That has meant overproduction every year. Also planting the same crop in the same place year after year has worn out the land. The Program aims at reducing the amount of cotton produced and thus raising prices; and at diversification by inviting all farmers to put 35% of the land formerly used for cotton in the crops that will restore what cotton has taken out of the land. To all who comply the Government gives cash on the basis of the average amount of cotton produced on acreage in that particular section during the last year at current rates per pound.

The set up is democratic. Each community has its Soil Conservation Association and elects its president. The Community Conservation Association presidents meet and form a county Association, and the county president meets with other county presidents to form a state Association. Negroes are included. In a few instances attempts have been made to be rid of Negroes by meeting at exclusive hotels. But a wire to the AAA at Washington usually discourages the consummation of the scheme. The important thing for Negroes to note is that the program not only is even handed, but actually goes further and sets up safeguards against some of the worst Southern practices.

Without the benefit of trumpets and fanflares, Secretary of Agriculture Wallace, C. A., Cobb, director of the Southern Division, and W. W. Alexander, have quietly but firmly incorporated Negroes in the largesse dispensed by the Government. Nor have our Negro leaders been shunted to the background. Texas's C. H. Waller has been sent by the Government into nearly every state from Texas to Florida. John P. Davis, Field Representative, Alvin Holsey, Publicity Director, Mrs. R. R. Moton, who is doing educational work among the women and several others, are given every consideration as leaders. They speak on the same programs with the other leaders and sit in the conferences on planning for meetings.

Now after having seen the program work, Negroes are in better position to judge it and they are practically unanimous in their support of the Program. So are the leaders in every walk of life. They realize that the economic status of the Negro farmer must be improved before there can be much substantial security for the rest of Negroes. The Soil Conservation Program not only makes an intelligent effort to better the lot of tenant farmers generally but takes actual notice of the Negro's dependence upon the greed of some Southern owners. Texas Negroes are grateful for the consideration given.

COBB TELLS OF CONSERVATION PROGRAM; TO REDUCE WASTEFUL SURPLUS, INCREASE INCOME

GOVERNMENT CHECKS TO BE MADE PAYABLE TO AND MAILED DIRECT TO TENANTS AND SHARECROPPERS

Many Out-of-Town Visitors at Tuskegee

By A. L. HOLSEY
Field Officer, Tuskegee Institute

TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE, Ala., Jan. 28—"Every farmer, both white and Negro must be informed, if the 1937 Soil Conservation Program is to succeed in its purpose to reduce surpluses and increase farm income."

That was the message sent by C. A. Cobb, director, Southern Division, A.A.A., to a group of Negro agricultural leaders, who have just concluded a two-day intensive training course on the detais of the 1937 Soil Conservation Program.

E. A. Miller, assistant to the director of the Southern Division, A.A.A., and a representative of Mr. Cobb, presided at the sessions while the actual training was conducted by T. L. Ayers, Senior Agricultural Economist, Washington, D. C., and T. M. Gachet, Junior Administrative Assistant, Southern Division, A.A.A., Washington, D.C.

In addressing the visitors, President F. D. Patterson of Tuskegee institute, told his audience that "at last the government is making a serious and sincere effort to solve some of the South's agricultura problems and it is significant that Negroes are being given an opportunity to actually participate in various phases of the program."

Provisions of the program and plans for its execution which are of special interest to Negro farmers include:

1. Government checks for cotton diversion payments will be made payable to and mailed direct to the tenant or sharecropper.

2. The program will encourage the use of land, diverted from cotton and other soil-depleting crops, for growing a balanced food ration in the home garden, including poultry, hogs and milk cows.

3. Negro Farm and Home Demonstration Agents will give direct assinstance to Negro farmers by encouraging them to participate in the program.

4. Owners of small farms, tenants and sharecroppers are accorded, under the program, the privilege of direct appeal for consideration in unsatisfactory settlements or disputed claims involving government payments.

Coffeeville, Miss., Courier
January 22, 1937

1937 Conservation Program Will Aid Negro Farmers

Washington, D. C. — Negro farmers who were benefited by the Soil Conservation program of 1936 will be encouraged by the recent announcement of Secretary of Agriculture Henry A. Wallace that the program will be continued in 1937 with increased payments for growing vegetables and fruits and a more extended opportunity for planting soil building and conserving crops.

"For the 1937 program", says Secretary Wallace, "additional emphasis has been placed on soil building and more money will be available for soil building practices".

As in 1936, payments will be divided into two classes; Class I for diversion from soil depleting crops and Class II for soil building.

Concerning the diversion payments, the statement says that in "most states of the Southern Region these two payments are combined into one payment of $9.00 per acre with a deduction of $3.00 per acre for failure to match the diversion with an increased acreage of soil conserving crops".

For cotton, the maximum diversion allowed will be 35 percent of the total average acreage of the farm and the diversion rate will be 5 cents per pound based upon the average lint yield for the particular community in which the farm is located.

"The rates for approved soil building practices such as liming, terracing, reforestration and seeding some soil building crops", the statement continues, "will be established for states and regions and will be in line with those of 1936".

Agriculture - 1937
Condition of.

A.A.A. — Soil Conservation.

SOIL CONSERVATION

We are becoming impressed with the belief that the most vital force for improving conditions among the three million members of our group, living on farms, in so-called cotton states of the South, found its exemplification in the AAA program. This, of course, has been invalidated by a Supreme Court decision but the principles have been remedied to some extent through the passage of the Soil Conservation Act. Defender

The purpose of the agricultural conservation program, as testified to by southern leaders is three-fold: Adjust cotton production to supply and demand; stabilize farm prices so that the farmers may have some assurance of cotton payments which are more in line with the cost of production and, third, to attempt such measures as will help to restore the fertility of some three hundred million acres of land whose fertility has been lessened or destroyed by intensive growth of cash crops.

The government operates its plan by offering to make payments to farmers who will agree to take out of cotton production up to 35 per cent of the normal cotton acreage, provided, further that these diverted acres are planted to feed and soil-building crops which will help to restore soil fertility and at the same time provide a balanced food ration for the family and thus remove some of the hazards of the old plantation commissary. 4-3-37

From the standpoint of Race people, this program is breaking down some of the most cherished traditions of southern plantations. For example—the original plan of distributing payments was for the government to send one check to the landlord who in turn was expected to give each tenant and sharecropper his share of the government payment, based upon that tenant or sharecropper's part in the program. Chicago, Illinois

The government has been compelled to abandon its program of sending checks to landlords due to complaints that the tenants were not receiving their just proportion. Late in 1936 the information reached Washington that some of the landlords were changing the status of their tenants and sharecroppers to that of day laborers and wage hands—the obvious purpose of which was to keep tenants and sharecroppers from participating in the payments. But Washington was not to be outdone.

Early in January, C. A. Cobb, director of the southern division of the AAA gave out to the press a letter which went to the landlords and tenants informing them that anything changing the status of the tenant and sharecropper from the 1936 agreements was not approved by AAA officials, and any landlord guilty of this subterfuge would not be paid the money which would have been paid to him had he retained the status of the 1936 leasing or cropping agreement.

Such measures followed by such vigilance will mean much to the future hopes of the Race farmers. Funds which came from the government have helped many of these farmers to pay off mortgages, repair their homes, send their children to school, etc. The problem of the tenant and sharecropper in the South has not yet been solved. Much is yet to be done, but a step has been made in the right direction.

The greatest proble.. is to get the Race farmers, themselves, to pass on the proper information to one another. There are 654,000 such farm operators in the nine southern states, of the Southern Division, whose information must come from Race farm demonstration agents, which number only 300 in the entire South. These agents must teach the people to read their newspapers; the schools and churches and fraternal organizations should also contribute their part in disseminating proper information to these uninformed farmers.

Milledgeville, Ga., Recorder
April 29, 1937

SPECIAL MEETING NEGRO FARMERS AT THE CITY HALL THURSDAY, MAY 6, 10:30 A.M.

James P. Davis and Rev. J. C. Austin, Field officers for the A.A.A. will meet all negro farmers and friends at the city hall in a final discussion of the soil conservation program. Rev. Austin is pastor of the largest Negro Baptsit church in Chicago with a membership of twelve thousand. Rev. Austin is known as the leading Negro preacher and orator of America. Rev. Austin has given much of his time to teaching the members of his race to become better ciitzens by paying taxes and becoming an asset to the county or town in which they live. All farmers are urged to be present to hear and meet Davis and Rev. Austin. The Mayor of the city will be present and welcome these men to our city and county .

Brunswick, Ga., News
May 8, 1937

Negro Federal Farm Officials Spend Day Here

James P. Davis, field agent for educational work among negroes, with headquarters in Little Rock, Ark.; A. L. Holsey, publicity director of Tuskegee Institute, on temporary leave to do publicity work among negroes for the AAA; P. H. Stone, negro state extension agent, State College, Savannah, and H. A. Hunt, negro assistant, Farm Credit Administration, are here today conferring with Wesley Myers, local negro county agent, with reference to various phases of the soil conservation program.

The delegation is making the trip over Georgia as representative of Secretary of Agriculture Wallace to make a survey of farm conditions for the department of C. A. Cobb, a Georgian, who is director of the southern region.

The representatives said there were 10,500 negro farms in Georgia, consisting of 85,000 acres, valued at $11,000,000. These figures, they said, were secured from the records of the census bureau in Washington.

The delegation of negro officials spent yesterday in Savannah, conferring with farm representatives there. Today they visited Liberty county. They will spend most of the afternoon here and will then go to Woodbine for the remainder of the afternoon and tonight they will attend a mass meeting of negro farmers in Camden county to be held at the court house.

Spartanburg, S. C., Herald
June 9, 1937

NEGRO OFFICIALS VISIT AT FARMS

Holsey Says Good Use Being Made of Benefit Checks by Local Negroes

A. L. Hosley, of Tuskeegee, Ala. James P. Davis of Little Rock, and W. C. Bunch, county negro farm agent, yesterday interviewed several Spartanburg county negro farmers relative to their participation in the federal farm program and their share in the soil conservation program.

Holsey is engaged in promotion of the federal farm program among negroes, and works out of Washington and Tuskeegee under Cully A. Cobb of the AAA. Davis is regional manager.

Observes Work

Holsey said they spent part of the day observing the effects of the farm program on negro farms and explaining its operation to them, and observing the operation of their soil conservation benefit payments and the use which they are making of their checks.

"We were very much gratified by what we found in Spartanburg," Holsey said. "We received no complaints, and we found the negro farmers of Spartanburg county making good use of their soil conservation benefit checks.

HOLSEY AND THE FARMERS

IT VERILY DOTH APPEAR that the Negro racial group will be forever burdened with those individuals of the race whose insatiable desire for the limelight and efforts to preserve their own personal economic welfare, causes a deliberate ignoring of the intersts of the masses, regardless as to the plight of the race. The unfortunate phase of the situation is more apparent as the deceptive tactics of these selfish individuals come to light wherein they will endeavor to inveigle the unsuspecting leadership of Negroes into their wily schemes launched at the behest of designing individuals of the majority racial group whose sole idea is to impede the progress of the Negro.

The recent economic chaos that has confronted our nation seems to have produced even more of these Negroes who will resort to anything for a "piece of silver."

It is not known definitely just how Albon Holsey gained such favor with the Department of Agriculture at Washington. Several months before the announcement was issued that he had been appointed field representative for work among Negro farmers, he was endeavoring to promote a chain store scheme in New York City. Later, he was back at Tuskegee Institute, endeavoring to hook on to the administration there and the surmise is advanced that his appointment to the government pay roll was the diplomacy of certain Tuskegee officials to solve the problem of how to get him off their hands.

Now it is that we find Holsey calling together the representative Negro leadership of the nation in a conference at the Nation's Capital, apparently with a view of having them pacify those persecuted tenant farmers who are suffering hell on earth at the hand of farm operators in certain sections. Expenses of the group of outstanding editors and other Negro leaders were defrayed by the government.

The effective and important Washington Tribune, renders a fine service to the Negro racial group as they size up the situation in an editorial last week, as follows:

> A good number of editors who attended, and those who did not attend the conference on farm legislation called last week by Agricultural Adjustment Administration and Farm Security Administration officials are of the opinion that there is something rotten in Denmark.
>
> They question the New Deal's calling a farm conference this late in the game when most of the farm legislation for the administration has already been passed or is already in the making.
>
> From the questions and remarks that flew thick and fast at the officials, they too probably left the sessions believing that there had been a frame-up on them. All indeed was not harmony, neither between the New Dealers and the editors, nor between the editors themselves, although the administration was commended for its "consideration" of the Negro press and the Negro farmer in financing such a conference.
>
> The fact that the railroad tickets were paid for by the government did more than anything else to cause suspicion to creep into the words and expressions of the newspaper men.
>
> The conference, however, was outstanding for for what it did not take up. There were no plans made or suggestions given concerning the main problem that confronts Negro farmers. There was no enlightenment on just what the federal government could do to see that colored farmers get their share of the benefits flowing from the various farm laws already in effect. The same old story of state's rights and blaming local officials was told without remedial suggestions for future justice.
>
> The editors, however, probably gained a great deal of information from the conference on the condition of agricultural affairs of the nation. And one good lesson learned by them, which was no doubt worth the trip, was that no time or effort must be lost in acquainting their readers with farm bills before they are passed and farm legislation after it has become law so they may exert every effort to get benefits due them.

Agriculture-1937
Condition of

A.A.A. – Soil Conservation

3,000 Hear AAA Chief As J.C. Austin Returns

Cully Cobb, Southern AAA Head, Tells Status Of Race Farmer

Three thousand Chicagoans packed Pilgrim Baptist church, 33rd street and Indiana avenue, Sunday morning to officially welcome the return of Dr. Junius G. Austin, the pastor and to greet Hon. Cully A. Cobb, director, Southern Division of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration of the Department of Agriculture.

For three hours and a half, this vast throng of churchgoers sat patiently in their seats and heard the interesting story of the survey of Dr. Austin made during his tour of nine southern states. The Chicago minister was recently appointed field officer and general investigator of the Southern Division of the AAA of the Department of Agriculture.

At the outset, Dr. Austin explained Mr. Cobb's presence stating that "he is here to make a report as to the true status of the Race farmer as his conditions relate to federal supervision under the new program."

Cobb Outlines Program

Using for his subject "Agricultural Conservation, The Gospel of Economic Salvation," Mr. Cobb acquainted his hearers with the work of the Agricultural department is doing. He pointed out that the objective of "our program is economic independence and out of it we believe will come a better day for all the people of the nation."

"Any national program that permits prejudice against any people is doomed to fail," said Mr. Cobb. "The program of the U. S. Department of Agriculture is designed and is being administered to colored and white farmers alike."

Continuing Mr. Cobb said, "I think it should always be remembered that the business wheels stopped turning when agriculture's buying power stopped, and that they started turning again when farmers began to prosper and to buy. This leads me to point out this fundamental fact—that there can be no permanent prosperity in this country, indeed in your Church here in Chicago unless there is a prosperous agriculture."

In Dr. Austin's message he reported that we had not come to a stage of perfection. He declared he had discovered that in the south as well as in the north the secret of success is in the man and not in the land. Therefore, many members of the Race are forging ahead in spite of the handicap and all who accept the extension and conservation program of the government are improving their condition.

Farmers Doing Well

"Members of the Race are using their conservation in buying farms, increasing their present acreage, redeeming their mortgages and improving their properties. They are educating their children and taking better care of their families in a better way."

Dr. Austin, who covered more than 23,000 miles speaking in land grant colleges and visiting farmers in the states of Arkansas, Alabama, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Mississippi and Texas said he had found in his survey that many of the southern white men land owners, extension supervisors and others were very co-operative with the government's program in helping the Race farmers as well as the whites.

"I saw the new day dawning in the south and we can hope for a solution of our problem where the problem really is."

This statement was well balanced with musical numbers by the 150 voice gospel chorus under the direction of Prof. Thomas Dorsey and the senior choir under the supervision of Prof. George A. Gullatt and the juvenile choir.

Notables Present

Preceding Mr. Cobb's address, greetings of the city were extended by Judge Matthew D. Hardigan, representing Mayor Edward J. Kelly. The Rev. Richard C. Keller, assistant pastor, introduced among the visitors seated on the pulpit, Judges Cecil B. Smith, Charles Daughtery and Joseph Graber; Civil Service Commissioner Wendell E. Green, Dr. I. H. Holloway, the "Mayor of Bronzeville," Albion L. Holsey, director of publicity, AAA; J. Levirt Kelly, president Local 444 Waiters and Cooks Union A. F. of L.

Chester, S. C., Reporter
July 29, 1937

NEGRO FARMERS' PICNIC.

The annual negro farmers' picnic for Chester county will be had Friday, August 6th, on the grounds of Zion Pilgrim church in the Wilksburg community.

James P. Davis, head field officer, Soil Conservation Service, will deliver the address.

The program begins at 10:30 o'clock. An old-fashioned basket picnic dinner will be served at noon, and baseball games will be played in the afternoon.

Wayman Johnson.

Cobb Resigns From A. A. A.

Southern Praised For Fairness to Negro Farmers

WASHINGTON—(ANP)— Workers among Southern farmers, particularly in the cotton division of the AAA learned with regret Tuesday of the resignation of Cully A. Cobb as Director of the Southern Division of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration. As the man in charge of the AAA cotton plow up campaign Mr. Cobb assumed a position four years ago which brought him into direct charge of operations affecting tens of thousands of Negro farmers and tenants. His attempt to secure for all cotton producers fairness of treatment attracted the attention of the entire country.

In an effort to integrate colored people more thoroughly into the work of the department, Mr. Cobb appointed James P. Davis of Richmond, Ind., Mrs. R. R. Moton of Cappahosic, Va., and A. L. Holsey of Tuskegee Institute as field officer of the AAA, their duty being to assist in the education of colored farmers and farm women in the program of the adjustment administration so that they might receive every possible benefit therefrom.

Among those mentioned as possible successors to Mr. Cobb is E. A. Miller, who has served as assistant director. During the plow-up campaign Mr. Miller was Mr. Cobb's representative in the field and his generalship and firm attitude with plantation owners in behalf of tenants did much to make the success of the program possible. Mr. Miller last week directed a course in agricultural economics for the Negro extension workers of the deep South at Tuskegee Institute.

AAA IS STUDYING USES OF COTTON

Program Designed to Develop and Expand Utility of South's Major Crop

8-31-37

By PAUL MAY
Macon Telegraph Correspondent

WASHINGTON, Aug. 30—A new program of experimental work to develop and expand new uses for cotton will be launched by the Agricultural Adjustment Administration following allotment of $100,000 for this purpose, it was learned today.

Previously 8,500 bales of surplus cotton had been made available by the AAA for the experimental use of cotton fabric in highway construction and the expenditure of about $7,000 for work toward the development of other new uses for cotton was authorized in March in this year.

Under the new allotment, the AAA will furnish cotton for continuation of these demonstrations and additional work in eight proposed new cotton uses, including the use of cotton fabric for construction of wind breaks to check sand and soil blowing.

The adaptability of the material as a reinforcement of asphalt-lined irrigation canals will be studied.

Other Proposed Uses

Other proposed uses of cotton to be studied are as a reinforcing material for covering on levees and revetments; as a protective covering on the banks of dams and reservoirs; as a protective covering in seeding lawns; as a covering for cages or enclosures used for propagation of insect parasites; as a covering to prevent escape of insects from storage plants and other possible sources of infestation; to prevent or lessen the nuisance caused by winged wild life; and as a covering for bales of cotton.

For this work the Agricultural Adjustment Administration will furnish cotton, cotton products, to federal state and local governmental agencies and to colleges, universities, and other non-profit organizations.

The program will be under the direction of the Marketing Section of the AAA.

LARGER SHARE OF MONEY TO FARM TENANTS

During 1938 Division Will Be on 50-50 Basis; Negroes to Benefit

WASHINGTON. — Under the provisions of the 1938 Soil Conservation program, just announced by Secretary Henry A. Wallace, tenants and sharecropers will receive a larger share of government payment checks than in previous years. Many tenants and sharecroppers are Negroes.

"The new program," Secretary Wallace said, "represents a progressive development from the previous programs formulated under the Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment act.

It follows the broad outlines already established and sets up definite objectives for 1938. These include an increase in soil-conser-

9-24-37

ving crops and soil-building practices to further the primary aim of soil improvement. Goals for soil-depleting crops were fixed as a conservation measure and to assure an ample and balanced supply of food, feed and fiber crops."

Decide Acreages

To attain these objectives, a goal of from 29,000,000 to 31,000,000 acres have been set up for cotton and for tobacco from 1,577,800 to 1,653,000 acres. If the planters do not exceed these goals enough cotton and tobacco should be produced to sell at prices fair to both the farmer and the consumer. The goals set up for wheat and corn will likewise produce ample food and feed.

Concerning the division of payments between the landlord and tenant, the 1938 Program says:

"In all regions payments will be divided between landlord and tenant in the proportion that they share in the principal crop, or all crops and practices on the farm."

Heretofore the division between landlords and sharecroppers was approximately on a basis of 75 percent to the landlord and 25 percent to the tenant. In the program the division will be more nearly on a fifty-fifty basis. Where the tenant supplies his own workstock, equipment, etc., and follows the practices, he will receive a larger share based upon his participation.

Automatic Membership

In the 1938 Program, all tenants and sharecroppers who receive payments under the new program will automatically become members of the County Agricultural Conservation Association. This association selects the County Committee which helps to administer the program in the counties. The new program makes clear the opportunity which they now have to join and take an active part.

Three Negro field workers are employed by the Southern Division of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration. They will work with Negro Land Grant College Presidents, with Negro Extension workers and with other agencies which touch Negro rural life, in helping explain the Program.

Payments To Tenants Are Increased In 1938

Washington, D. C., Sept 20—Under the provisions of the 1938 Soil Conservation Program, just announced by Secretary Henry A. Wallace, tenants and sharecroppers will receive a larger share of government payment checks than in previous years. Many tenants and sharecroppers are Negroes.

"The new program," Secretary Wallace said, "represents a progressive development from the previous programs formulated under the Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act. It follows the broad outlines already established and sets up definite objectives for 1938. These include an increase in soil-conserving crops and soil building practices to further the primary aim of soil improvement. Goals for soil depleting crops were fixed as a conservation measure and to assure an ample and balanced supply of food, feed and fiber crops."

To attain these objectives, a goal of from 29,000,000 to 31,000,000 acres have been set up for cotton and for tobacco from 1.577.800 to 1,653.000 acres. If the planters do not exceed these goals enough cotton and tobacco should be produced to sell at prices fair to both the farmer and the consumer. The goals set up for wheat and corn will likewise produce ample food and feed.

Concerning the division of payments between the landlord and tenant, the 1938 Program says:

"In all regions payments will be divided between landlord and tenant in the proportion that they share in the principal crop, or all crops and practices on the farm."

Heretofore the division between landlords and sharecroppers was approximately on a basis of 75 per cent to the landlord and 25 per cent to the tenant. In the Program the division will be more nearly on a fifty-fifty basis. Where the tenant supplies his own work stock, equipment, etc., and follows the practices, he will receive a larger share based upon his partic ipation.

In the 1938 Program, all tenants and sharecroppers who receive pay ments under the new program will automatically become members of the County Agricultural Conserva tion Association. This Association selects the County Committee which helps to adminster the program in the counties. The new program makes clear the opportunity which they now have to join and take an active part.

Three Negro field workers are employed by the Southern Division of the Agricultural Adjust ment Administration. They will work with Negro Land Grant College Presidents, with Negro Extension workers and with other agencies which touch Negro rural life, in helping explain the Program.

Agriculture-1937
Condition of.

Arkansas.

Share Croppers Average $752 Earnings for 6 Months' Labor On Chapman & Dewey Farms

Net Return, After Deduction for Groceries and Clothing Advanced by Company Stores, Was $625 Last Year — 1937 Prospects Are Better

Share croppers who cultivate 3000 acres of cotton land for the Chapman & Dewey Farms Co., producing better than a bale to the acre, are feeling the surge of returning prosperity this year.

When the picking is over and the last bale has been marketed this Fall, it is expected that the 1937 figures will be even higher than those of last year, when the average earnings of a Chapman & Dewey share cropper for six months' labor in cultivating 15 acres of cotton were $752.77. Only $127.05 (or $25.41 per month) represented groceries and clothing advanced by the company's store, all the rest—an average of $625.72 per man—being paid in cash.

Perhaps that explains why 36 of Chapman & Dewey's 186 share croppers bought new radios last year, and others are buying new radios this year. A list of the share croppers who bought radios in 1936 was compiled by G. E. Davis, bookkeeper of the Chapman & Dewey Farms Co.

A recapitulation of share croppers' accounts as compiled for the company by its own auditor, affords an interesting study. Not only are the totals given, but so are the names and individual earnings of each of the share croppers on the nine Chapman-Dewey farms in the vicinity of Marked Tree.

3520 Bales Produced

On 2781 acres last year these share croppers grew 3520 bales of cotton, the accounting shows. The store advanced to the share croppers $23,632.67 worth of groceries and clothing. They received in cash from their crop $98,095 and in cash from pay rolls (for other farm work) $18,289.86, or a total cash return of $116,385.44. The total earnings, therefore, were $140,018.11 and the average earnings per acre $50.34.

In addition to his average income of $752.78 for his six months' labor, each share cropper received the following benefits that the ordinary day laborer or pay roll employe does not enjoy:

1. Free house rent, barn, etc.
2. Free water, from a well drilled at his home.
3. Free firewood, for the cutting.
4. Free garden spot, and place for chickens. (He not only has to buy additional groceries, dry goods, etc., for the family.

For an illustration that will present the share cropper's story more clearly, let's show in detail the record of each of the Chapman & Dewey Farms Company's nine farms:

BRINKLEY FARM: 362 acres, 581 bales. Average earnings of 20 share croppers, $60.43 per acre.

CARSON FARM: 188 acres, 260 bales. Average earnings of 12 share croppers, $54.25 per acre.

DILLAHUNTY FARM: 421 acres, 512 bales. Average earnings of 25 share croppers, $49.68 per acre.

FRY'S MILL FARM: 339 acres, 344 bales. Average earnings of 25 share croppers, $42.18 per acre.

HATCHER FARM: 70 acres, 92 bales. Average earnings of seven share croppers, $55.99 per acre.

MARKED TREE FARM: 529 acres, 663 bales. Average earnings of 39 share croppers, $52.10 per acre.

SHAW FARM: 50 acres, 64 bales. Average earnings of two share croppers, $45.39 per acre.

SECTION 20 FARM: 346 acres, 488 bales. Average earnings of 23 share croppers, $52.51 per acre.

TYRONZA RIVER FARM: 476 acres, 516 bales. Average earnings of 33 share croppers, $43.69 per acre.

Acreage figures vary widely, but the average area cultivated by a Chapman & Dewey share cropper is 14.9 acres.

5. Free pasturage for his cow and other livestock.

No Taxes to Pay

6. Freedom from taxes and insurance and the cost of repairs to his house, since all these are paid by the landowner.

The prices that he pays the Chapman & Dewey Stores for his groceries, clothing, etc., are the same as those charged the public generally.

Groceries for himself and his family, as shown by the accounts of the Chapman & Dewey Stores, cost the share cropper about $21.45 a month. To this is added $3.55 for dry goods, etc., to complete the average monthly "furnish" of $25 a family.

Here, as shown by the records of the store, is a typical list of share cropper purchases of groceries for one month in 1936 and what they cost him:

Ninety-six pounds of flour, $3.50; 96 pounds of meal, $2.20; 10 pounds of meat, $2; salt, 25 cents; 32 pounds of lard, $4.60; two gallons of syrup, $1; 10 pounds of sugar, 55 cents; eight pounds of coffee, $1; G. N. beans, $1; navy beans, $1; peas, $1; baking powder, 25 cents; apples, 50 cents; peaches, 50 cents; prunes, 50 cents; mackerel or salmon, $1; 10 pounds of rice, 60 cents. . . . Total, $21.45. Total including dry goods, $25.

Farm Records Given

Under the terms of the contract, a Chapman & Dewey share cropper is entitled to an advance of $1 per acre per month, and since the average is 15 acres, this would represent a total of $15. However, the records show an average of $25 a month, or $10 extra each month

Seven Nabbed For Fraud In Cotton Loans

Arkansas Town's Mayor Included In Group Arrested By G-Men

LITTLE ROCK, ARK., Dec. 18.—(AP)—Seven farmers and business men of McRae, White County, including the mayor, were arrested by Federal agents here today on charges of defrauding the Government in connection with cotton loans.

Serving of the warrants by Deputy U. S. marshals followed an announcement earlier this week by Federal District Attorney Fred A. Isgrig that proceedings would be instituted against several persons.

The McRae residents were brought here for arraignment before U. S. Commissioner W. M. Rankin. All waived preliminary hearings and their bonds were set from $500 to $5,000. They made bond and returned to McRae.

The Federal warrants listed those charged as:

G. M. Bennett, 38, mayor of McRae and cashier of the People's Bank there.

J. T. Lyon, 57, cotton buyer.

L. S. Griffith, 36, a ginner.

T. R. Lyon, 46, farmer and brother of J. T. Lyon.

T. G. Crisco, 45, farmer.

R. H. Ernest, 54, merchant.

H. (Hesse) Price, 51, farmer.

The commissioner fixed the bonds of Bennett and J. T. Lyon at $5,000 each, that of Griffith at $2,500 and the others at $500.

All of those arrested were charged with making false claims to receive cotton loans through the Commodity Credit Corporation, Isgrig said.

At Washington December 10, John D. Goodloe, attorney for the Credit Corporation, recommended to the Justice Department that charges be filed against 25 to 30 growers, buyers and ginners in Arkansas.

Agriculture-1937
Condition of.

Arkansas.

In Washington
With
GEORGE MORRIS

R. A. Learns

WASHINGTON, Feb. 4.—The Resettlement Administration is learning a valuable lesson concerning the problem of agricultural rehabilitation. Dyess Colony in Arkansas, for example, which was to prove that sharecroppers, given an opportunity of escape from landlords, could be made permanently independent. Everything was moving along smoothly toward solution of the tenant situation until the flood came. Dyess Colony has been abandoned for the duration of high water and the inhabitants removed to Little Rock until the water recedes and they are permitted to resume the experiment.

A RECENT traveler reports having encountered a group of refugees from Dyess Colony at Little Rock. Some of them expressed less enthusiasm for returning than they had for getting far back in the hills to which they were native. They confided that they were through with floods for all time, unless the waters rose to the foothills of the Ozarks. They exploded the theory that because people are indigenous to the soil they will thrive equally well wherever they are planted. They were removed from the submarginal lands of the scrub oak section and transplanted in the loamy soil of the Arkansas Delta, where one acre would produce as much as 10 of their native hills, under the assumption that they would be 10 times better off.

THOSE FARMERS from the rocky hillsides had no acquaintance with floods. They understood the rippling brooks and roaring falls that came from cloudbursts and sped through the valleys to the rivers, leaving no ruin or wreckage and no trace of disaster. But when the murky, muddy backwater from the Mississippi and its tributaries moved upon them, overflowing first their land, then lapping at the foundations of their homes and rising ominously and steadily, with no hope of safety except in flight, they were glad enough to leave their small possessions behind and escape with their lives. Precarious as their existence had been, at least there had been security for life and such property as they owned.

CONFIDING TO the stranger in their midst that they had no intention of entering a refugee camp, they confessed that if this is rehabilitation they want none of it. This group is the antithesis of the disposition of those native to the Delta. They would prefer a flood every year, in the hope that the waters recede and the land dry out sufficiently to produce a crop, rather than endure the perpetual hardship of the hill farmer whose bumper crop would be counted a complete failure in the lowlands.

THE EXPERIENCE of the rehabilitated tenant is not different from that of the landowner. The tenant, however, may take his choice of where he will go when the flood passes, selecting usually the place where there is less clean-up to follow. The farmer who owns the land must return to it. He may have been farsighted enough to save his mules, costing from $150 to $250 each, but the grain and hay are a total loss. Farm implements may have been washed away or seriously damaged.

CREDIT for the farmer is not easily obtained from the usual sources, even for the best risks. Bankers are accustomed to finance crop production, but the margin is too narrow for safety to add to that the requirement for rehabilitation. In addition to the problems of his own, tenants are to be cared for out of the limited credit he is able to obtain. The tenant is in better position to obtain his demands. There are landowners more fortunate to whom he may go and make a trade on better terms.

IN MANY instances the landowner may have a mortgage on his farm. Mortgaged farms represent a high percentage. Following disasters such as the landowner is confronted with now, he may be financially unable to carry on. He reverts to tenancy as a temporary expedient and awaits a better day to buy again.

Plantation in East Arkansas Provides Security of Tenure And Good Living Conditions

Last Year Only Three Tenants Moved From Rechtin Farms Near Blytheville—Financing of Livestock Purchases Made By Owner

Special to The Commercial Appeal

BLYTHEVILLE, Ark., May 16.—Absentee ownership and the share-tenant system of farm operation in the cotton belt have become associated in the public mind with a variety of social and economic evils. But for first hand information that they are not incompatible with stability of tenure, good living conditions, and economic progress, it is necessary to look no further than to the 37 farms in the vicinity of Blytheville which are owned by Miss Lucia A. Rechtin of Evanville, Ind., daughter of the late Theodore A. Rechtin. There are about 2,000 acres in these farms.

Succeeding crop years bring few changes in the tenants on the Rechtin farms. Last year there were only three, and one of those moved off to operate a farm of his own. Of the 37 tenants, 12 have been on Rechtin farms for 15 years and 14 for nearly 10 years.

The rent paid on cotton land by Rechtin tenants is one-fourth of the crop, and the rent on all other land is a variable cash payment depending on the average price of cotton. If the cotton is 6 cents or less per pound, the rent per acre is $6. If cotton is 8 cents a pound the cash rent is $8. If cotton is 10 cents or over, the rate of rent is $10 per acre. The rent can not be over $10 even though cotton goes to 15 cents.

Soil Payments Given

Under this arrangement, Manager Roy Little believes that co-operators in the soil conservation programs are entitled to all of the soil conserving and building payments, and when the checks arrive, if there are no debts pending, the landlord's part of the check is given to the penants. They are also permitted to defer the payment of a part of the cash rent equal to one-half of the entire soil conservation payment until the check arrives. This permits several to finance themselves this year who could not have done so had they paid the rent in full last October.

Managers of the farms and especially the present one, Mr. Little, have always considered the tenant as fundamental to the success of the farm and close co-operation has been given him. If he needs financing the landowner will provide it. If for some good reason he can not pay out at the end of the year, he is given two more years in which to pay off the loan.

If the tenant, after at least a year or two of tenure, desires a permanent fixture such as a poultry house for sideline commercial egg production, it is built at no expense to the tenant. Four such houses already have been constructed this spring.

Livestock Is Bought

If a tenant, not already overburdened with some previous debt, needs a cow, the landowner will finance the purchase. If he desires to affiliate with a farmer's organization, such as the Farm Bureau, the landlord will lend him the fee if he needs it. Each tenant writes his own soil conservation program work sheet and complies as he chooses. However, if he exceeds his base acreage, as one of the 37 tenants did the past year, he is charged with the difference between the penalty and the amount of crop rent that was paid.

Living conditions are above the average for tenants. All of the buildings are papered and painted. The live-at-home program is advocated and every tenant, as soon as possible, must own a cow, hogs and some chickens. All of them have excellent gardens.

Club Work Encouraged

The cropping systems are very much like those found on farms operated by farmers. The long tenure makes such crops as alfalfa and permanent pastures possible. Soy beans are grown for hay, pasturage and for commercial purposes. Last year every acre of corn was interplanted with soy beans.

Practically all of the tenants' children of club age have enrolled in 4-H clubs. Miss Rechtin has been responsible for developing some of the outstanding 4-H club leaders of the county through her encouragement by offering various prizes for outstanding achievements in club projects, especially home improvements.

TENANCY SOLUTION

Large Farming Operations Must End to Aid Small Farmers

To The Commercial Appeal:

There has been much said and written in the last 18 months on the tenant proposition, and it seems to me that there has as yet so far as I have seen, not been any plan offered that will solve the problem permanently, but may give some little relief, but make trouble and plenty of grief in the end.

In this article I shall not discuss the whys and wherefores of the problem, for we have both bad and good tenants and landlords, but will offer as I see it the remedy that will cure the problem and eliminate trouble and expense of the government, and cure the patient in five years.

Just as long as men are permitted to buy and operate large tracts of land in any section of the country, or lease and operate large tracts, corn, wheat, tobacco, cotton or any agricultural products, just that long will you have sorry tenants, and they will get sorrier and worse all the time for the reason they are and will be worked on starvation wages, and their children will have to work and get no education and be uneducated, and we will have a low, degenerate grade of people.

When you place on the federal statute books a law to tax $5 per acre every acre operated over 160 acres by any man, men, corporation, insurance company or what not, and double that every year thereafter, the large owner and operator will seek out the good tenant, sell him stock, tools, and he will pay for same. Make the rate of interest 5 per cent or less, and when he has paid his first two installments, then if Uncle Sam wants let him take it over. The sorry tenant will see the handwriting on the wall and he will right about face and he, too, will get in and get himself a tract of land. They will buy and pay for their homes in five to 10 years, and instead of ignorant and degenerate people, you will have nice little homes and a fine set of folks.

Now, let's see some of the present results of this large operation. Mississippi County is said to be the largest and most fertile county in Arkansas and is owned, operated and controlled by just a few men, and has more uneducated, illiterate, ignorant, poor people than any county in Arkansas. Some of the counties joining it are in the same boat. Suppose you reverse the tables and had this county and ones adjoining it in 40, 80, 120 and 160-acre homes and had been for years, you would see nice homes and an intelligent people.

I know you would have a great row with these large owners, but they would be better off in five years than they are now, and their heirs in future would be better off.

PAUL FINCH.

Tyronza, Ark., Route 1.

New York Critic Finds Tenants Have Good Chance For Success

Tenants who till the soil of cotton plantations in Eastern Arkansas have a good opportunity to make a success out of share-cropping, if they will only take advantage of what is offered them.

That is the opinion of Thomas Craven, noted art critic and writer of New York City, who came to Memphis to make a brief study of conditions on the cotton plantations in Arkansas.

"I came here for a visit, without any preconceived ideas about what the conditions were or what they should be," he said. "It was an educational tour, you might say. I just wanted to see how the negro tenants lived and how they feel about the conditions under which they labor.

"On the three plantations I visited, I found living conditions good despite the recent floods. The tenants that have the best homes are those who have gardens and pigs and chickens and cows.

"I went into a number of these homes and found them clean and comfortable, but often overcrowded.

"I found several tenants who take magazines regularly and have books and radios. The plantation owners I visited were men of feeling and integrity. The negro tenants were contented and happy. Among the white tenants I found signs of their being depressed. They looked crushed, but I don't know why, and I do not feel competent to give an opinion on them. I just haven't had the background to discuss it.

"I noticed good co-operation between the tenants and owners, and found tenants loyal. The farms I visited were those of C. R. Ransom, J. O. E. Beck and the Kellogg Plantation. These owners are high-class, intelligent gentlemen."

Mr. Craven believes that much can be done in raising the standards of the tenants.

"I do not believe that this can be accomplished through outside forces," he said. "It must come from the urging of the plantation owners or some organization whom the tenants feel have the solving of their problems at heart. It will be a gradual process—but then it takes time to raise standards of living."

Mr. Craven plans to write a story giving his impressions of the conditions he found.

"I asked one of the tenants how he was getting along, and he told me pretty good," said Craven. "I asked him if he liked his boss, and he told me point blank that if he didn't he could leave, because he did not have to stay.

Mr. Craven, who is a special art critic for the Hearst newspapers, will return to New York the last of this week.

Odds and Ends Pay Profits Through Handicraft Hobbies Of Farmwives in Arkansas

Woven Rugs, Pine Needle Baskets, Cornhusk Hats And Bags, Stuffed Toys, "Mammy" Dolls, Braided Mats and Quilts Among Articles Sold

Ingenuity of Arkansas farmwives and 4-H Club Girls in using odds and ends of materials to make saleable products has aided materially in increasing farm family incomes, a survey by Miss Sybil B. Bates, extension specialist of the University of Arkansas College of Agriculture, reveals.

Not only are they showing farsightedness and persistence, but in 1936 these activities netted $40,455.44.

Most of the money went for labor-saving equipment, such as pressure cookers, which enabled the women to can an ample food supply and insure well balanced meals throughout the year. Hand and power washing machines were bought, which not only shortened the laundry hours, but made the work easier. Lamps that made for more efficient lighting and innumerable other pieces of labor-saving equipment were bought. The money means higher education for children, vacations and more improved and attractive furnishings, Miss Bates said.

In Benton County, Mrs. Black Cloud sold $110 worth of men's neckties. These ties were produced from printed materials made on the bias and lined with unbleached domestic.

Mrs. R. D. German, Benton County, after attending a weaving school returned to her home to build her own loom from scrap lumber. In a short time she reported a sale of over $20 worth of woven rugs.

Miss Nannie Holland, Washington County, uses pine needles for her basket work. Last year, her baskets netted her a profit of $31.25.

Mrs. Walter Smith, Van Buren County, reported a sale of $110 worth of pine needle baskets. She was asked to set up an exhibit of products from native materials and the sales resulted.

Basket Weaving Pays

Mrs. Eli Hunt, Boone County, uses buckbush and honeysuckle runners which she prepares by first stripping the leaves, boiling for two hours to soften the bark which is then easily removed. From these creamy white runners, Mrs. Hunt fashioned 265 different baskets, which have been sold throughout the United States, in Central America and Canada. Last year her sales netted her $402.

To most housewives when the succulent ears of corn have been the glory also, since $1478.75 worth of quilts were marketed last year.

Rose Mary Sharum, North Sebastian County, from her work in clothing has in the past three years marketed more than $1700 worth of clothing products.

Other clothing products marketed amounted to $994.45.

Homemade bread has netted Mrs. E. G. Rouse a total of $130. "I have averaged 25 loaves per week," said Mrs. Rouse of Washington County.

Mrs. W. L. Blaylock, North Sebastian County, sold $375 worth of fruit cake last year at Christmas.

Canned products have netted 257 women $5567.23 and food specialists $6704.89.

Reseating chairs has meant $150 to two women. The sale of flowers has netted $1644.77 to 26 women.

Through roadside markets $4838.90 worth of products have been sold and through home demonstration markets $13,772.06 worth of products were sold.

Stuffed and wooden toys, the favorites of small children, have been a means of adding cash to the income. Frances Rose, member of Mena 4-H Club at Mena, sold $298 worth of stuffed toys. Frances is planning to attend the University of Arkansas next year and her toy project will help her to do so.

Rugs Sell Readily

Mrs. Blanch Edwards, Lonoke County, developed an interesting negro mammy doll that sold for $1. From these toys she has netted $75.

Last year more than $2000 worth of rugs, which included hooked, braided and crocheted, were sold by rug demonstrators, Mrs. Bell Burnett, Paris and Logan Counties sold $246 worth of rugs. These were hooked on a burlap foundation from discarded wool and silk clothing. Mrs. Burnett made her own hook from a fly swatter.

Miss Verna Ratterree, Greenwood, sold $23 worth of braided mats made from discarded underwear and stockings.

Mrs. S. C. Liner of the Liberty Club, Mena, sold $60 worth of rugs made from raveled tow sacks.

The ancient craft of weaving has been revived and women are finding it profitable. Last year $305 worth of woven products were sold, according to Miss Bates. In Benton County, Miss Mabel Hudson, home demonstration agent, stated that over $2000 worth of woven rugs had been made.

Quilts come in for their share of

BAILEY NAMES GROUP TO STUDY FARM LABOR

Honorary Commission Announced On Visit Here

C. E. PALMER CHAIRMAN

'Government Has Assumed Leadership, States Must Be Ready To Co-Operate,' Governor Declares

An honorary commission to study farm and farm tenancy problems was announced here yesterday by Gov. Carl E. Bailey of Arkansas.

"Group action in the study of the farm labor problem is vital if permanent progress is to be made," the Governor said, adding that "substantial contributions already have been made in the study by individuals and groups in Arkansas."

Palmer Is Chairman

C. E. Palmer of Texarkana, who served as chairman of a Tenancy Commission under former Gov. J. M. Futrell, was named chairman of the new group. "Mr. Palmer has agreed to take initial steps to call the commission together," the Governor announced.

"The Federal Government has assumed leadership in the movement to correct undesirable conditions affecting agricultural income," Governor Bailey said, "and it behooves states to be prepared to co-operate in and further these efforts."

Lists Commission

"Several members of the Legislature, from counties and districts which are vitally concerned, will be requested later to serve as members of the commission," the Governor said.

He announced he had asked the following to be members of the commission:

C. T. Carpenter, Marked Tree, lawyer.

Henry Naff, Portland, planter.

Donald Murray, Jonesboro, editor.

C. A. Byrns, Tom Smith, editor.

K. A. Engel, Little Rock, publisher.

Rowland Thomas, Little Rock editor.

Charles Goslee, oHt Springs editor.

Morris Smith, Birdeye, planter.

George Adams, Pine Bluff, publisher.

Mrs. W. C. Pope, Little Rock, editor.

Carl Hollis, Warren, banker.

J. O. E. Beck, Hughes, planter.

Robert Hall, Little Rock, secretary, State Chamber of Commerce.

George C. Branner, Little Rock, sate geologist.

George W. Donaghey, Little Rock Planning Board, business executive, planter.

Otis Page, Little Rock, State Land Commissioner.

Ed T. McKinley, Little Rock, Labor Commissioner.

W. L. Blackstone, Wynne, Southern Tenant Farmers Union.

H. W. Blalock, Little Rock, member State Utilities Commission.

R. E. Short, Brinkley, president of Arkansas Farm Bureau Federation.

Dr. M. F. Dickinson, Little Rock, president, Arkansas Farmers Union.

Brooks Hays, Little Rock, regional attorney, Farm Security Administration.

T. Roy Reid, Little Rock, regional director, Farm Security Administration.

L. C. Sloan, Lynn, master of Arkansas Grange.

Roland Scaife, Readland, planter.

Dr. Roy Roberts, Fayetteville, president, Arkansas Education Association.

Miss Willie Lawson, Little Rock, executive secretary Arkansas Education Association.

Floyd Sharp, Little Rock, state administrator, Works Progress Administration.

R. C. Rose, Blytheville, planter and ginner.

H. K. Thatcher, Roland, farmer, member of State Plant Board.

Albert Strauss, Malvern, member State Forestry Commission.

E. B. Matthew, Littde Rock, Sate Department of Educaiton.

Dan T. Gray, Fayetteville, dean, College of Agriculture, University of Arkansas.

J. W. Sargent, Little Rock, coordinator, Soil Conservation Service.

A. Carlson, Trumann, manager of Singer Sewing Machine Company properties in Arkansas.

J. B. Watson, Pine Bluff, negro educator.

Theo Bond, negro farmer.

Agriculture—1937
Condition of.

Committee on Farm Tenancy.

Two Sessions To Be Held In The Deep South

Three Negro Members To Be Active In Cotton Belt Meetings

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Five regional hearings will be held this month by the President's Committee on Farm Tenancy, three of whose members are Negroes, it was announced this week by Secretary of Agriculture Wallace, chairman of the committee.

Hearings will be held at Dallas, Texas, January 4; Montgomery, Ala., January 6; Indianapolis, Ind., January 7; Lincoln, Nebraska, January 9; and San Francisco, Cal., on January 12.

Negro members of the committee are President Fred D. Patterson of Tuskegee Institute; Dr. Charles S. Johnson of Fisk University and Mrs. Mary McLeod Bethune of Bethune-Cookman College.

MEETINGS PUBLIC

Secretary Wallace said that all persons and organizations interested would be welcome at these public meetings for a complete discussion of tenancy problems.

The hearings will deal especially with the situation in the cotton belt, corn belt, and Great Plains area, where farm tenancy is said to have assumed "serious proportions." In most of the states in these regions there is a higher than average percentage of farms operated by tenants.

Secretary Wallace announced that the Committee desires to obtain a comprehensive picture of the tenancy problems in different parts of the country.

"We hope especially," he said, "that at each hearing we shall obtain the opinions of farmers, both tenants and owners, as well as of other interested groups which have given thought to this important problem."

The hearings at Dallas and Montgomery will be conducted by Will W. Alexander, Acting Administrator, Resettlement Administration, and L. C. Gray, Assistant Administrator of the Resettlement Administration and Executive Secretary of the President's Committee on Farm Tenancy.

Hearings at Indianapolis, Lincoln, and San Francisco will be conducted by M. L. Wilson, Assistant Secretary of Agriculture, and A. G. Black, Chief of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, both members of the President's Committee.

SEEK VIEWS

Secretary Wallace urged organizations which expect to send representatives to hearings to present their views in writing, so that all proposals may be considered carefully by the Committee in the preparation of its report to the President.

The Committee has scheduled the following topics for discussion at the hearings, but pointed out that statements need not be confined to these subjects:

1. What can States do to improve present rental contracts, through legislation or through education of landowners and tenants?

2. How should tenants be recompensed for improvements made on farms, or penalized for depletion of land?

3. What are the chief difficulties facing tenants who wish to become owners?

4. How can the Federal Government help tenants acquire farms by loans for purchase of farms, or by public acquisition of farms which may be leased to individuals?

5. What are the possibilities of cooperative farming by tenants?

6. What interest rates and amortization plans should be applied to government loans to tenant farmers or cooperatives?

7. What type of education is needed to help tenants become successful owner-operators?

8. Can the present policies of the government in regard to farm credit, AAA benefits, etc., be shaped to favor farm ownership?

Places where the meetings will be held in the various cities will be announced later by the Committee.

PROPER SEQUENCE.

Agriculture - 1936
Condition of.

Arkansas.

New York Evening Post

FEB 10 1936

Terror Stalks Cotton Belt Again As Planters Fight Tenant Union

HOWARD KESTER

Arkansas Land Barons Organize to Crush Sharecropper Group—Swastika Bands Are Disclosed

EDITOR'S NOTE.—The great majority of those who live in the cotton belt have as little voice in the press as they have in politics.

This series of five articles does not pretend to be an "impartial" survey. Its author, Howard Kester, is organizer for the Southern Tenant Farmers' Union and he expresses frankly the point of view of the tenants, croppers and farm laborers his union represents. These include both white and Negro.

Mr. Kester is white and a Southerner. He is a native of Virginia. He attended Lynchburg College in Lynchburg, Va., Princeton Theological Seminary and Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tenn.

He traveled widely abroad in 1925 and again in 1932. He was trained for the ministry and as a student preached in the mountains of West Virginia, Virginia and Tennessee.

Mr. Kester now lives in Nashville, Tenn. He is a member of the Socialist Party and editor of the Sharecropper, official organ of his union. He was for six years secretary of the Fellowship of Reconciliation.

He is the author of "Revolt Among the Sharecroppers," to be published shortly by Covici-Friede.

By HOWARD KESTER

The terror walks again in Arkansas.

It is aimed against the Southern Tenant Farmers Union, of which I am organizer.

By day men in the deep South are already beginning to rake away the dried cotton stalks and to plow up the black soil for the new planting.

At night deputy sheriffs and masked men ride the roads, on the lookout for secret meetings of the union in darkened cabins or deep woods.

Beatings are frequent and killings not uncommon, as a planter autocracy rules a countryside in democratic America.

Planters even organized a Fascist band wearing green shirts and carrying the swastika as its symbol, though wide hostility soon robbed these Green Shirts of their usefulness.

To croppers and tenants struggling against an unbelievably low standard of living, the alien symbol of these Green Shirts meant what it does to workers and peasants in Hitler's Reich—the symbol of brutal repression at the hands of lawless armed men supported by agencies of government.

First to unite black and white in the effort to end conditions worse than chattel slavery, the Southern Tenant Farmers Union will soon begin the third year of existence.

Planters have turned northeastern Arkansas into an armed camp to crush it.

By planters are meant not small farmers but owners or managers of huge 30,000 to 50,000 acre cotton "factories"—many of them in the hands of the banks.

In one town recently a meeting of the union in a church had to be called off because planters had mounted seventeen machine guns on the porch across the way.

This would not have been the first time that a church was "shot up"—the Sharecroppers Union of Alabama still remembers the Camp Hill massacre under similar circumstances.

Hundreds of our members have been beaten, scores of families have been driven from their homes by terror, at least ten have been killed and many others are numbered among the "missing" since twenty-seven black and white men in overalls gathered at Tyronza in northeastern Arkansas in July of 1934 to organize the union.

There were no "outside agitators" among them. Nor was it organized by "damned Yankees." No interloper from "New Yawk" had to come down and tell these black and white farmers that they had to hang together or hang separately, that though the color of their skins might be different their interests were the same.

Curiously enough, too, the union developed as a protest against what was to have been a New Deal on the farm.

Section 7 of the AAA cotton contracts—little known in the North but as great a source of dissatisfaction as Section 7A of the NRA—promised tenants and croppers their fair share of the benefits handed out under the act.

But tenants and croppers found that the AAA machinery, county agents, county committees, State committees, were made up either of planters or of their dependents. Tenants and croppers were cheated on their benefits, on their cotton gin certificates and on the law's promise to let them have free farming and land withdrawn from cotton production.

The planters were their own judges, and protests were of no avail.

Tenants and croppers dispossessed likewise found the relief agencies in the hands of the planters or their retainers, often found themselves forced by these agencies to take work as farm laborers at less than starvation wages.

In some places, under penalty of being removed from the rolls, they were forced to pick radishes at the rate of 12½ cents per 1,800—about as much as a man can normally pick in a day.

I know one widow with three children who received 3 cents at the end of a day's work.

The average relief per family of five consisted of ten cans of condensed milk, one twenty-four-pound sack of flour or meal, three pounds of sowbelly (the cheapest kind of pork), and six or eight tins of canned beef.

This was supposed to last not a week but a month. It amounted to about three or four dollars a month.

On many plantations the planters objected to any relief at all, because it lessened the tenant's dependence on the planters.

And when tenants and croppers, driven desperate, even leaped the old color line and began to organize, they again found the planters lined up against them.

Most of the sheriffs are planters, or their retainers. The Governor is a planters' Governor. Both Senators, Robinson and Caraway, are planters' Senators. In the innermost citadels of the New Deal tenants and croppers found the White House and the Department of Agriculture strangely deaf, dumb and blind on their problems.

Violence against tenants and croppers began early and continues to grow more brutal.

Many preachers, tired of preaching pie in the sky and unable to reconcile the misery about them with the Gospel they taught, went to work for the union.

They were among the first victims of the terror.

Crittenden County, scene of the present disorders, was also the first place where violence appeared.

Two preachers, Ward Rodgers and C. H. Smith, who had been "thumbing" their way over the Northeastern section of the State organizing the union, were seized by deputies on their return from a meeting in the latter part of July, 1934. Smith is a Negro, Rodgers a white man.

Rodgers managed to get away from them, but Smith was taken to the woods and beaten. Afterward he was thrown into jail on a charge of "enticing labor." The union had no money to hire an attorney, and found most lawyers afraid to take the case, anyway.

One attorney told H. L. Mitchell, secretary of the union, that he had lost his courage in the Argonne and didn't have enough left to tackle Crittenden County.

When C. T. Carpenter, a Marked Tree, Ark., lawyer, did agree to take the case, it was only on condition that a guard of one hundred white sharecroppers be assigned to protect him on his way to and from the court house.

Preacher Smith was released without trial. Six months later Preacher Rodgers was arrested on charges of "anarchy," "attempting to overthrow and usurp the government of Arkansas" and "blasphemy."

Deputies seized him after he had addressed a mass meeting of white and Negro tenants and croppers at Marked Tree, Ark., gathered to hear the report of the committee they had sent to Washington to present their complaints to Secretary Wallace.

Preacher Rodgers had introduced the Rev. E. B. McKinney, first speaker for the Washington delegation, as "mister." The Rev. McKinney is a Negro. "He called that nigger mister," was the shocked whisper among the planters and their deputies. Maybe this is what gave rise to the charge of "blasphemy."

As for the "anarchy," earlier a committee of planters called on Rodgers and warned him that if he didn't stop organizing their tenants and croppers they would lynch him.

"Well," Preacher Rodgers said, "that is a game two can play. If necessary I could lead the sharecroppers to lynch every planter in Poinsett County, but I have no intention of doing so."

Just a few weeks ago, at Earle, Ark., armed vigilantes broke up a meeting in a Negro church and shot down in cold blood two men. One of them may die.

The next day, while I was addressing 450 white and Negro members of the union in a Methodist church, about fifteen armed planters and deputies came into the meeting and thrown into my automobile by three of the men while the others began beating members of the union, I knew the first planter—by reputation. It was said that he had killed thirty-five men. He played ominously with the trigger of his gun. He held the gun close to my face.

"We don't want no shootin' now," the other warned him.

And so I'm still able to write this story.

"We're going to have a massacre, only this time we're going to have a union if we have to do it with Winchesters," one of my captors said. Another: "If you don't stop organizing our labor, we're going to have another Elaine and thrown in with a few members of the union, and beaten and thrown into jail under the Arkansas "criminal anarchy" statute. He is now out on appeal.

At least ten of our members have been killed—some shot, one bound and thrown into the Coldwater River, several were flogged to death, one woman actually died of fright when planter vigilantes came to

PROPER SEQUENCE.

Glossary of Terms In Cotton Peonage

TENANT FARMERS are farmers who pay rent for their land in cash. There are few of these in the cotton belt.

SHARE TENANTS are more frequent. They have some resources, tools, often a mule, and frequently have several sharecroppers working on the land leased to them. As rent the share tenant pays about one-fourth of his crop.

SHARECROPPERS have nothing, neither land nor tools nor a mule nor furniture nor any money to supply their needs until harvest time. The landlord supplies their home—usually a shack with a few odd bits of furniture—and their "furnish." "Furnish" consists of food and a few household necessities usually supplied at exorbitant prices by the planter-owned commissary. The sharecropper has a right to the value of half the cotton he has grown, less his "furnish" at interest rates that often run to 25 per cent, less other "deducts," including wear and tear on tools and a wide variety of other items.

AGRICULTURAL LABORERS are even worse off than the sharecropper. They are used when needed and left to get along as well as they can between harvest and planting. They have no credit at the local commissary, as the sharecropper has. Many sharecroppers have been forced to become agricultural laborers because under AAA the planter who uses sharecroppers is supposed to pass on to them part of the benefits paid for acreage reduction. By using laborers, the landlord can keep the full benefits without any difficulty.

GOVERNORS PLEDGE HELP FOR FUTRELL

Study Of South's Tenant Farm Problems Objective Of Arkansan

LITTLE ROCK, ARK., Aug. 15.—(AP)—Southern governors today expressed interest and pledged cooperation in a proposal by Gov. J. M. Futrell, of Arkansas, that a Dixie-wide conference be convened for impartial study of the South's 70-year-old sharecropper and tenant farm problems.

Futrell, who has announced his intention of retiring from public life at the end of his present term next January, indicated he desired to devote his major efforts in the last months of the governorship to working out a solution for the tenancy question. A source of discord in the farming South since reconstruction days.

He disclosed that he was already moving to name an Arkansas commission on the subject, to form a nucleus for the proposed South-wide group. Hot Springs, Ark., far removed from the troubled East Arkansas sharecropper belt, was proposed as a meeting place for the commission.

The Governor said he felt a solution could be worked out through cooperation on Federal and State agencies, indicating he believed a program for assisting tenant farmers in purchasing their own farms through long-term financing offered the brightest hope for what he described as an "underprivileged class."

Texas Pledges Aid

Gov. James V. Allred of Texas was one of the first to pledge cooperation.

"The Governor of Arkansas has a very worthy objective. I am in complete sympathy with any concerted move to change farm tenants into farm owners," he said at Austin.

Gov. Hill McAlister, of Tennessee, said he would be "very glad to cooperate in any way possible to help find a solution," and that he would, if necessary, appoint representatives to gather information or confer with others on the subject.

At Columbia, S. C., Gov. Olin D. Johnston, the son of a tenant farmer, said:

"My father was a tenant farmer and I worked as a boy on a tenant farm, so naturally I would be interested in anything that will aid the farmers, especially the tenant farmers, of the State and nation.

"I will give most careful consideration to the suggestions of Gov. Futrell when I receive them from him in detail."

No Mississippi Problem

In Mississippi, Gov. Hugh White commented "we have no sharecropper difficulties in Mississippi that I know anything about" and Mississippi State Commissioner of Agriculture J. C. Holton expressed the same view. Holton added, however: "It might be a good idea for the friends of the South to get together and work out some plan for stopping all this propaganda about sharecroppers that is designed to hurt the South."

"It never hurts to discuss a situation," said Gov. Richard Leche of Louisiana.

Gov. George C. Peery, of Virginia, pointed out that the sharecropper issue was not as important in his State as elsewhere in the South because of the smaller proportion of farms devoted to cotton, but that he would be "glad to look into the matter, as any collection of facts is always valuable."

Atty. Gen. Cummings said in Washington this week that a Federal Grand Jury in Little Rock would be asked to investigate charges of peonage in Arkansas cotton fields. Brien McMahon, assistant attorney general, expressed interest today in the southwide conference proposed by Futrell, but said it would have no effect upon the Government's proposed investigation.

Futrell Interested

It was disclosed that Gov. Futrell had been discussing the Southern conference with leaders in this State for many weeks, following the strike called by the Southern Tenant Farmers Union in East Arkansas during the Spring.

The proposed Arkansas commission, of 40 or 50 persons, would include sharecroppers, landowners, educators, social workers, business and professional men.

Gov. Futrell said the tenant problem has been developing "for decades and in recent years has grown to such serious condition that the problem must be settled if Arkansas is to have peace among its citizenship and agriculture continues to hold its rightful place as the State's chief resource."

"The plight of the sharecroppers may be exaggerated in some reports, but the thing itself—the system, is eating at the vitals of the South's economic structure and whether exaggerated or not, is of such serious character as to call for immediate and exhaustive study and examination with a view to its definite settlement," he said.

Evidence Clashes In Peonage Probe

WASHINGTON, Aug. 12.—(AP)—Atty. Gen. Cummings said today that the Justice Department would submit "conflicting" evidence of possible violations of the Federal peonage laws in eastern Arkansas to a Federal Grand Jury at Little Rock.

In a press conference discussion of complaints made in connection with the eastern Arkansas sharecroppers' strike, he declined to elaborate his assertion that the evidence was "conflicting" but said "some legal questions exist."

Samuel E. Whitaker, special assistant to the attorney general, who investigated the complaints, also has completed a study of the alleged flogging of Miss Willie Sue Blagden, Memphis, Tenn., social worker, and the Rev. Claude C. Williams near Earle, Ark., June 15.

Cummings said no evidence had been uncovered indicating a Federal law had been violated in the flogging case. Facts about it were sent about a month ago to Gov. J. Marion Futrell of Arkansas, for possible State action, the Attorney General added.

Half an hour before he summoned newspapermen to his office, Miss Blagden at the capital to lecture on the condition of Arkansas sharecroppers, called on Bien McMahon, assistant attorney general.

Accompanied by Mrs. E. W. Fowler, of the Washington committee for aid to agricultural workers, and D. J. Shoemaker, of the American Civil Liberties Union, Miss Blagden expressed to McMahon dissatisfaction with the manner in which Whitaker had investigated her case. McMahon told her, she said later, that the Government had finished its investigation and he would not discuss it with her.

Tenant Inquiry To Rise Again

Arkansas Legislators Will Be Importuned to Make Investigation

BY W. D. SISSON

LITTLE ROCK, Nov. 28.—When the Legislature meets here in January it will be asked to go into the question of lawlessness in the East Arkansas tenant situation and to give everyone an opportunity to talk.

The matter was brought to a head this week, when the Arkansas Farm Tenancy Commission, at its meeting in Hot Springs, voted to ask the Legislature to hold public hearings on the matter.

The fight to get the matter before the Legislature was led at the tenancy meeting by Dr. A. J. Millar, veteran Little Rock minister and editor of the Arkansas Methodist. He was aided and encouraged by Mrs. Scott Wood of Hot Springs, past president of the Arkansas Parent-Teacher Association, and Mrs. W. C. Pope of Little Rock, fellow members of the tenancy commission's committee on lawlessness and intimidation.

A determined fight to ease over the situation and apparently forget it was made by R. T. Coleman, Little Rock attorney and chairman of the lawlessness committee. At one time in his argument against going into the matter as suggested by Dr. Millar, Mr. Coleman, who operates a large farm near Osceola, became so vehement that he trembled as he sought to speak.

And all the time J. R. Butler, Memphis, president of the Southern Farm Tenants' Union, sat on a back row and smiled. He appeared to enjoy the proceedings hugely. At his first chance he jumped to his feet to tell in clipped sentences the story of the farmer who couldn't see the rats because he had his eyes closed. Then he said that was the trouble with "some folks in Arkansas; that they had their eyes closed to what is what." He offered to bring "plenty of evidence of lawlessness and intimidation of tenants before any legislative committee."

That the landowners will be present at any such hearing to give their side was indicated when J. O. E. Beck, Hughes planter, talked about organizers running around at the "dead of midnight, spreading their propaganda. Let them come in the daytime," he fairly shouted.

He showed that the alleged whipping of a Memphis woman and a Little Rock preacher at Earle, when they attempted to preach the funeral of a negro, who was later found to be alive, rankled when he said for a white man to preach the funeral of a negro was a disgrace in itself.

Jim Crane, manager of the Lee Wilson interests at Wilson, listened carefully to all that was said, but kept his own counsel, except to admit that he "got pretty full while it was all going on," meaning the talking.

"That man sitting right there had the same opportunity to buy land when I did," Beck said, pointing to W. G. Padgett, Marion sharecropper member of the commission. "He was a neighbor and could have bought land, too," Beck said.

Padgett admitted that he let his opportunity slip and as a consequence is still a sharecropper. But he did deny in no uncertain manner that he has had anything to do with the tenant union, or wants to have anything to do with it.

Governor Futrell lent his voice to the call for an investigation with the statement that "the truth ought to be disclosed," and that there should be an investigation to see what rights have been denied the tenants. It is due the folks who treated their tenants properly, that the facts be brought out, he declared.

But what Governor-elect Carl E. Bailey thinks about the matter will have to be heard later. He had been expected to attend the commission meeting, but didn't show up. Mrs. Wood explained that he had had a troublesome tooth extracted that day and was going to rest for the remainder of the week.

That the Federal Council of Churches has taken up the matter of reported mistreatment was declared by Dr. Millar, who charged that the tenant commission would never have been appointed if it had not been for "the national scandal over what happened in East Arkansas."

Just what the Legislature will do and how it will proceed remains to be seen, but it is certain that the matter will not be dropped and that a hearing of some kind will be held.

And if public hearings are held, it seems fairly certain that a lot will be said on both sides; that the tenants will be there to tell of their alleged troubles and that the planters will be on hand to give their side.

Just what action such a committee as asked by the tenancy commission could take to remedy any evils uncovered doesn't seem to be clear. But this will all come up for discussion later.

All in all, it seems just one more headache for the Legislature, whose members have plenty of work and worry ahead of them when they get together in January.

Agriculture - 1937
& Condition of.

Florida

Tallahassee, Fla. Democrat
February 12, 1937

NEGRO FARMERS POOL EFFORTS

Will Buy and Sell as Unit To Save Costs

Leon negro farmers will pool their purchase of fertilizers and planting seeds this year, which will enable them to obtain faster delivery service and lower prices.

Jerry N Nash, president of the Leon County Negro Farmers' council, presided over a meeting Thursday at Macon lodge, Meridian road, for discussing the plan, one put into force here several years ago by County Agent Grover C Hodge. Since then, under Mr Hodge's direction, the negro farmers have had the assistance of R E Wyer, negro agent. Wyer attended the meeting Thursday.

E G Rivers, Tallahassee merchant, and R Brow.. of Cordele, Ga, attended the meeting as seed and fertilizer dealers, pledging their cooperation. It is planned that each community group place individual orders, dividing the fertilizers and seeds among individuals when delivered.

Wyer said the next meeting of the county council will be held at Chaires March 3.

During the last two weeks, negro farmers of the county have sold $256.20 worth of milk to the Georgia Cheese company. It was reported at the meeting this milk was picked up by trucks which came to the farms for it. The milk routes have spread through the county. They are said not to be affecting the home consumption of milk in any way.

Wyer will head a delegation of negro farmers who will go to Lake City next Thursday to attend and learn of soil conservation. State and federal agents will explain the 1937 program, and how the farmer and land owner may cooperate.

Agriculture – 1937
Condition of.

General

Tenants and Sharecroppers

WHEN President Roosevelt appointed his farm tenancy commission and later incorporated its major findings into a special message to Congress suggesting three vital avenues of approach to solution of the problem, he served notice that it is a serious matter, portent with evils jeopardizing social and economic reforms now in progress.

The Administration proposal that the Government assist tenants and sharecroppers to buy farms on easy credit terms was defeated in its first congressional test last week, the House Agriculture committee voting against expenditure of $50,000,000 annually to purchase land for resale to tenants.

Whatever the reasons were for the action of the committee, it is to be hoped that existing obstacles may be removed and reconsideration given the measure. The enlightened proposals of the Administration should be approved by Congress without impairment to their basic values.

To fully appreciate these proposals careful rather than cursory consideration must be given to the operation of economic forces and racial factors on land tenure in the South. The operation of economic forces is not dissimilar in their effects upon the movement of white and Negro population, and white and Negro farm operators, which reputable social analysts have concluded is due more to economic forces than to racial factors.

* * * *

Determined to keep an Agrarian system erected upon a cotton growing aristocracy, with all its accompanying evils, the South has seen the submerged status of the Southern farm tenant come to include an increasing number of native-born whites. In 1920, of the South's 1,590,000 farm tenant families, a little more than half were white; in 1930, of 1,790,000 tenant families, five-eights were white; in 1935, of 1,831,000 tenant families, nearly two-thirds were white. Thus, the land tenure system, originally conceived to meet a situation in which Negroes played the leading role has now enslaved nearly twice as many white families as Negro families.

White tenancy has grown considerably in the Cotton Areas. In 1900, there were 27,467 more Negro farm tenants in the cotton states than whites, the total being 288,108 whites and 515,575 Negroes. In 1935, the cotton states had 224,709 more white farm tenants than Negroes, the total being 814,683 whites and 589,874 Negroes. Over the thirty-five year period the increase of white tenants ranged from 47.2 per cent in Texas to 130.9 per cent in Mississippi. If the South saves ts rural civilization it must do something revolutionary for the tenant and sharecropper, white and black. It is no longer a Negro problem. It is a Southern problem.

* * * *

White and Negro farm tenants are helpless benefactors or victims of an inhuman public policy and private practices, and, it is not without significance that in the South where farm tenancy is most pronounced there are the lowest levels of living standards found among any farm people in the world.

MONTGOMERY, ALA., ADVERTISER
MAR. 18, 1937 M25

Tuskegee Faculty, Students Hear Goal On Southern Farms

TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE, ALA., March 17. — Carl B. Fritsche, managing director, Farm Chemurgic Council, of Dearborn, Mich., addressed the faculty and students in the Institute Chapel tonight on the aims and purposes of the chemurgic council and its relation to the Southern farmer. In his opening remarks Fritsche referred to his meeting with the late Booker T. Washington, who addressed a Sunday School in his father's church, at Nashville, Tenn. He paid tribute to Dr. Washington whose work he followed with keen interest.

In referring to Dr. George W. Carver, the speaker said: "Dr. Carver is a worthy successor to Booker T. Washington. I have long known and held in high regard his work in research and creative chemistry. Much of the new movement throughout the country to use by-products of farm crops is due to Dr. Carver. We are happy that he has accepted the invitation to attend the meeting of the Council in Jackson, Miss., in April.

"The genesis of chemurgic," Mr. Fritsche said, "is in Henry Ford's saying 'man's subsistence issues from the soil, not from the merchants's shelves. The work of the council is being carried forward in laboratories, public and private. Its basic policy is the policy of use. Farm Chemurgurcy means putting chemistry and science as a whole to work for the farmer and indirectly for society in general. In proportion as the economic status of the Southern landowner and tenant and sharecropper can be improved, the entire Southland will benefit according.

"Basically the program of the Farm Chemurgic Council is dependent upon effective coordination of agriculture, industry, science and finance. Agriculture furnishes the raw materials, industry processes them, science tells how to do it, finance furnishes the capital.

Council Objectives

"This is a self-help program with four objectives:

"1. To advance the industrial use of American farm products through applied science and at a price profitably to the producer.

"2. To encourage the production in this country of new crop products now imported from abroad.

"3. To preserve the production in this country of new crops.

"4. To preserve the American market for the American farmer.

"The program is founded on the philosophy that so long as poverty thrives in rural America the nation as a whole cannot enjoy enduring prosperity. The Southland is the most promising section of the country for the advancement of this program. Since almost every important crop is indigenous to this region the volume of variety or organic raw materials available for use in industry excite both imagination and ambition. Consider also the wealth of minerals and timber, it can be truly said that the Southland is richly endowed with natural resources. However, these natural resources must not be exploited that new may be enriched, but rather must have sound development to secure the benefit to everyone, including succeeding generations.

More Work The Remedy

"It is submitted that the best cure for the evils of tenancy is the broadening as well as increasing the variety of markets for farm products, at prices profitable to the producer. The only answer is to provide tenants with more work and that is one specific objective of the Farm Chemurgic Council.

Four Industries Ready

"1. These new industries are as follows: Four hundred agrol plants utilizing starch and sugar crops for producing a blending constituent adaptable to motor fuel. The council's laboratory at Atchinson, Kan., (financed by the Chemical Foundation) is pointing the way how.

"2. Two hundred starch plants utilizing the Southern white triumph sweet potato. The development at Laurel, Miss., is pointing the way now.

"3. One hundred craft and newsprint paper mills. The research of Dr. Charles H. Hearty, at the Savannah Pulp and Paper Laboratory is pointing the way how through the use of Southern slash and loblolly pine.

"4. One million acres of tung trees needed. The growth of 85,000 tung trees now planted in Gulf Coast States from Texas to Florida is pointing the way how.

"This program will restore the purchasing power of the farmer and increase his consumption of manufactured products. In so doing it will create new work for idle hands to do, thus reviving American industry and aiding American labor."

FARM EXPERTS MEET IN MISSISSIPPI TODAY

Chemurgic Conference Opens At Capital City

SCIENTISTS TO BE HEARD

4-12-37

Advancement of Industrial Use Of Agricultural Products Will Be Theme of Sessions—Laurel To Be Visited.

From The Commercial Appeal
Jackson, Mississippi, Bureau

JACKSON, Miss., April 11.—Advancement of industrial use of American farm products through applied science will be the theme of the Mississippi Farm Chemurgic conference opening here tomorrow for three days.

Recognized speakers of national importance in the varied fields of agriculture, some holding high state and federal posts, will be heard.

Laurel to Be Visited

The last day will be spent at Laurel, which has been acclaimed as "American's 100 per cent Chemurgic City." A visit through the various plants carrying out the purpose of the conference will be made by the delegates.

The visit to Laurel was urged by Mayor G. W. Hosey and P. G. Jones, secretary of the Chamber of Commerce. Visitors will be luncheon guests of the city.

Six sectional meetings have been arranged, which includes an "All-Mississippi Products Dinner" the first night at which Dr. A. B. Butts, chancellor of the University of Mississippi, will preside. Governor White will discuss his program to "balance agriculture with industry," before the banquet session, with John Temple Graves, III, editor of the Birmingham Age-Herald, speaking on "Science Comes South."

Dr. Herty To Speak

Dr. Charles Herty, director of Pulp and Paper Laboratory, Savannah, Ga., and inventor of the process for manufacture of paper from pine, will speak on "The Fundamental Importance of Research and Management in the Industrial Development of the South."

The conference opens Monday morning in the auditorium of the Edwards Hotel with J. C. Holton, commissioner of agriculture and general chairman of the conference, presiding. Speakers on the morning program include:

Carl B. Fritsche, managing director of Farm Chemurgic Council, Dearborn, Mich., on "Farm Chemurgic Objectives."

Dr. H. L. Knight, chief, U. S. Bureau of Chemistry and Soils, Washington, "The Utilization of Farm Wastes."

Dr. H. S. Paine, chief of Carbohydrates Section, U. S. Bureau of Chemistry and Soils, Washington.

"Recent Developments in the Production of Sweet Potato Starch."

After Program Given

Dr. William J. Hale consulting chemist, Dow Chemical Co., Midland, Mich., "Motor Fuel From Sweet Potatoes and Other Starch and Sugar Crops."

The afternoon conference, opening at 2 o'clock, with Dean J. R. Ricks, of the school of agriculture Mississippi State College, presiding is featured by five addresses and a song interlude by a negro quartet and chorus from the Finey Woods School of Country Life, in Mississippi. Speakers include:

Oscar Johnston, AAA official of Scott, Miss., and Washington, on "Economic Value of the Cotton Crop to the Nation."

R. J. Cheatham, senior technologist, cotton uses section, U. S. Bureau of Agricultural Economies Washington, "Cotton Uses."

Dr. Howard Doane, president of American Society of Farm Managers, St. Louis, "Raising Cotton to Industrial Specifications."

Dr. J. S. Abbott, secretary, Margarine Manufacturers Institute, Washington, "Domestic Oils and Fats."

Dr. George Washington Carver, director of Chemical Research and Experiment Stations, Tuskegee Institute, Alabama, "My Work."

Tuesday Speakers Listed

Dr. G. D. Humphrey, president of Mississippi State College, will preside over the Tuesday morning session, at which the speakers will be:

Dr. H. E. Barnard, research director, Farm Chemurgic Council Dearborn, Mich., on "Industrial Uses of Soybeans."

J. F. O'Kelly, agronomist and plant breeder, State College, "Production and Potential Industrial Value of Soybeans in the South."

W. H. Mason, vice president, Masonite Corporation, Laurel, "The Story of Masonite."

H. O. Hoffman, chairman Mississippi Industrial Commission, "The Chemurgic Movement and Its Relation to the Mississippi Industrial Program."

J. L. Kraft, president of Kraft-Phenix Cheese Corp., Chicago, "Making Research Pay in the Dairy Industry."

Col. Lawrence Westbrook, former assistant to Harry Hopkins, Washington, "Possibilities of Southern Agricultural Industries."

Short talks by representatives from Mid-South states on assets and liabilities and chemurgic possibilities of the Mid-South region will feature the Tuesday afternoon session over which J. O. Emmerich, editor of the McComb, Miss., Enterprise, and chairman of the State Planning Commission, will preside. These talks will be by M. J. Funchess, director Alabama Polytechnic Institute; J. R. Ricks, State College; and R. H. Snowden, chairman of agricultural committee of the Memphis Chamber of Commerce.

Tung Oil Program

Addresses Tuesday afternoon will be by:

Dr. W. F. Hand, state chemist and vice president of State College, on "Chemical Problems."

Dr. E. C. Sherrard, U. S., Forest Products Laboratory, Madison, Wis., "Conversion of Wood Into Plastics."

Dr. Curran, U. S. Forest Products Laboratory, "Frontiers of the Southern Pulping Industry."

Fred Johnson, Hastings, Neb., "Possibilities of Industrial Products rom Artichokes."

Tung oil, newest American agricultural industry, with record plantings during recent years to supply demands now requiring importation of 125,000,000 pounds annually and with more than half the national acreage in Mississippi, will occupy the spotlight at the Tuesday night "Tung Oil" session.

Among the pioneers in the development of tung oil production in America is Dr. C. C. Concannon, Chief, Chemical Division, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, U. S. Department of Commerce. Dr. Concannon has believed for a number of years that tung nuts could be safely and profitably produced in proper areas of the lower South, and his interest and the wealth of information he has made available has had much to do with the expanding industry. He has visited the Mississippi tung oil area on numerous occasions. His subject, "Tung Oil—Its Production and Commercial Value," is the opening address of the tung oil session.

Crosby Will Talk

"Tung Oil Development in Mississippi" will be discussed by a pioneer in the movement, L. O. Crosby of Picayune. Mr. Crosby is the owner of one of the oldest large-scale orchards in the state and is increasing his plantings annuallly. About three years ago he donated a large tract of land suitable for tung nut production to Whitworth College, thereby providing possibly the most unusual endowment possessed by any school in America.

Another Mississippian, Lamont Rowlands, of Picayune, will discuss "Tung Oil Production and What It Means to the South." Like Mr. Crosby, Mr. Rowlands saw the tung tree as a means of progress and development, and is now the owner of the largest tung plantation in the world—10,000 acres in one tract.

"Culture and Fertilization of Tung Trees" by Dr. J. C. Robert, director, South Mississippi Branch Experiment Station, Poplarville, will make public for the first time results of experiments in propagation, planting, fertilization and culture of tung trees, conducted at Dr. Robert's station, which is in the heart of the intensely developed tung oil area

Concluding the tung oil session will be the presentation of Mr. Rowland's motion picture entitled. "The Production of Tung Oil in China."

Atlanta, Ga. Journal
July 13, 1937

Revival for Sea Island Cotton Assured; 20,000 Acres Growing

BY MERRIMAN SMITH
United Press Staff Correspondent

Revival of the Sea Island cotton industry in the deep south was assured Tuesday as agricultural officials in Georgia and Florida estimated planting this season for both states at approximately 20,000 acres.

Stiles Martin, Georgia Agriculture Department statistician, estimated that approximately 4,500 acres of long-staple cotton were under cultivation in Georgia this season.

Nathan Mayo, agriculture commissioner of Florida, said more than 15,000 acres of Sea Island cotton were growing in his state.

Current acreage is preponderant when compared with acreage of only a few years ago when the sea island variety was virtually wiped out by boll weevils.

Sea island production began dropping in 1918 when the crop for the season was 90,000 bales. Continued weevil attacks cut production to a mere nine bales by 1928.

Early Maturing Plant

Gradual perfection of an early-maturing plant which ripened before weevils became pervalent gave impetus to a revival of sea island growing in 1934. The comeback started with production of fifteen bales (total for Georgia and Florida) in 1934. Production in 1936 increased to 1,086 bales.

With a revival well-started, the Federal Government, working with Georgia and Florida state entomologists, began helping in sea island experiments and perfection of boll weevil poisons designed to aid further the growth of the valuable long staple.

The WPA has accepted a project in Georgia's Lowndes County where demonstrations of new boll weevil poisoning methods are being conducted.

Georgia's present sea island area extends from Savannah to Valdosta, the south Georgia town that, at one time, was the largest sea island market in the world.

Experimental Growth

Under the direction of Manning Yeomans, Georgia state entomologist, experimental growth of sea island is being conducted at the Georgia State College for Negroes at Thunderbolt, near Savannah. Experimental work also is being done in McIntosh County.

Mr. Yeomans said he hoped scientists aiding reconstruction of sea island production would be able to develop a variety that would produce a long, strong and uniform staple.

Financial prospects for the current season are good, even though the acreage is small. Some officials predicted the price would range between 37 and 40 cents per pound. Sea Island commands top level prices because of its superior weaving and manufacturing qualities. Its long fibers also are stronger than short staple fibers.

Secretary Wallace's Plan

Regardless of the particular point from which the individual cotton farmer, cotton handler and cotton processor views the cotton situation, it must be admitted that the best solution is a program that is balanced sufficiently to help all.

There is no doubt that unlimited production would mean more business for the cotton handler and provide cheaper cotton for the processor. But it would break the cotton farmer. Nor is there any doubt that unbalanced control through which the crop is reduced to an unreasonable minimum would raise the price at the farm. But it would further endanger our foreign markets, bring on an economic crisis in farm labor, and threaten the cotton industry as a whole.

Such was the burden of the message brought to Mid-South cotton interests in Memphis yesterday by Henry A. Wallace, Secretary of Agriculture.

In pursuing a middle course and reaching for a happy medium, Mr. Wallace hopes to assure the cotton farmer a parity income. This is not a new thought or a new objective in spite of reports that in seeking it Mr. Wallace has shifted his gears. In 1933, when we were dealing with an emergency, we thought in terms of parity prices. Now, when we are dealing with a permanent program, the goal is to be reached by giving the farmer the same purchasing power, the same share of the national income per capita, that he had in the 50 years before the World War. The 1933 emergency was merely a starter towards that goal.

Mr. Wallace would reach this goal by a moderate adjustment of production. This would not be accomplished by fixing an arbitrary maximum as the Bankhead Act did, but by adjusting the maximum to the total that the domestic and foreign markets are accustomed to take. Through a processing tax, which Mr. Wallace suggests may be the way out, the program of soil fertility, increased production of food and feed crops, and a normal market could be maintained.

It is absolutely true, as Mr. Wallace so strikingly pointed out, that the tariff wall which has been built up has cost the Southern farmer untold millions. His problems would be well on their way to a partial solution if the protective walls could be torn down. But this is not immediately possible, nor is it to be considered at the moment as lending any strength to a solution. Faced as we are with the situation as it is, something more inviting must be hit upon. The Commercial Appeal believed at the time and still believes that the processing tax was the fairest and soundest method ever devised to assist any branch of American industry. Particularly was it fair in view of the protection that the East for more than 75 years has taxed the consumer to help itself.

The "ever normal granary" suggestion which Mr. Wallace proposed would be necessary only in times of emergency. It would become applicable only as a further protection against disaster from crushing surpluses which seasonable weather, war or panic might bring, and would be used only after a referendum of producers.

These are the major suggestions which form the groundwork of Mr. Wallace's plan. It is upon this plan that Congress will be asked in January to build a permanent program. It is gratifying to note that while necessarily regional in many of its applications, the plan has been thought out on a national basis which links the cotton farmer, the corn and hog farmer, the wheat farmer, all together in a solid group with similar aims and similar objectives. This fits in perfectly with the experience and the wishes of Southern farmers who long ago realized that they could not exist to themselves.

All in all, Secretary Wallace's plan is reasonable and it is sound. It aims at an economic stability for the cotton farmer that can be attained only through the directing influence of the Federal Government. What we want in the South is not a bumper crop, but a bumper income. In the accomplishment of this the South is fortunate in having at its command the sympathetic interest and understanding of Secretary Wallace and the Roosevelt Administration.

Agriculture - 1937
Condition of.

General

President Signs Bill To Assist Tenant Farmer

3,000 Farms Expected To Be Bought With Loans In First Year

WASHINGTON, July 23.— (AP) — President Roosevelt signed legislation today authorizing the Federal Government to help tenants and sharecroppers acquire farm homes.

The measure was approved by Congress last week after the chief executive had urged action to halt a national trend toward agricultural tenancy.

It authorizes $10,000,000 of farm purchase loans to tenants this year. Larger outlays are authorized in future years—$25,000,000 by 1939 and $50,000,000 annually thereafter.

3,000 Will Get Aid

Advocates of the new law estimated that loans for the purchase of approximately 3,000 farms can be made under this year's authorization. The total number of tenants in the country is estimated by authorities at 2,500,000. It has been increasing at the rate of 40,000 annually in recent years.

The tenancy legislation provides for two other activities designed to help low-income farmers. They are:

1. Rehabilitation loans to prevent small farm owners from slipping into tenancy, and to help tenants, sharecroppers and farm laborers improve their living standards.

2. Retirement of land unsuited for farming. In connection with this, the Government is authorized to help families now living on submarginal land acquire good land.

Relief Funds To Be Used

Funds for the rehabilitation loans are expected to be made available by the President from relief appropriations.

For the purchase of submarginal land, the measure authorized an appropriation of $10,000,000 this year and $20,000,000 each in 1939 and 1940.

Local county committees appointed by the secretary of agriculture will select tenants to whom farm purchase loans will be made. The loans will run 40 years and bear three per cent interest.

Tenant borrowers will be required to use, during the purchase period, farming practices prescribed by the secretary. They will be prohibited from selling their farms or their equities prior to five years from the date the loans are made.

Funds for the farm purchase loans have not yet been appropriated.

SOIL PLAN PAYMENTS FAIR, JOHNSTON SAYS

Delta Planter Cites Figures In Replying To Charge of Vandenberg

From The Commercial Appeal Washington Bureau

BY GEORGE MORRIS

WASHINGTON, July 10.—In answer to the charge of Senator Vandenberg, of Michigan that the Department of Agriculture made excessive payments to the Delta & Pine Land Co. of Mississippi, Scott, Miss., Oscar Johnston, president of the firm, replied today that the company received in rentals and benefit payments during the past four years $363,002.57, as compared with an aggregafte of $886,254,18, representing the company's rent share of annual production, which would have been realized had the lands not been taken out of production.

However, Mr. Johnston makes it clear that he does not consider his company to have lost $523,251.61, as shown by the figures, as a result of co-operating with the agricultural program.

Co-Operation Necessary

"As a matter of fact," Mr. Johnston wrote, "we feel that we have made no such sacrifice. We feel that the active co-operation of large and small producers was essential. We co-operated in the program not because of the expectations of rentals and benefit payments, but because we believed in the economic soundness of those programs. We believed they were essential to the restoration of any degree of prosperity to the nation. We believed they could not succeed without the co-operation of at least 80 per cent of the producers. We believed that the burden incident to this co-operation should not be borne alone by small producers.

"Without the rental and benefit payments to aid us in taking care of overhead and incidental expenses, taxes, insurance, maintenance, salaries, wages and care of livestock, it wuold not have been possible for us to co-operate in the program.

"If it is felt that these programs can be made just as effective without the co-operation of the larger producing operations, we are willing to be excused from further participation, and leave the burden incident to reduction of the existing surplus of cotton upon the shoulders of the small producers, but in doing so, we wish to point out that in our judgment such a course would be grossly unfair to the small producers."

Tenants Not Curtailed

Mr. Johnston points out that while the company has complied with the programs during the past four years, and annually curtailed production, its has not reduced the number of tenants, lowered salaries or reduced the number of employes on the property.

"Credit lines," he says, "extended to tenants have been more than doubled, day wages doubled, compensation of officers and employes increased from 20 to 25 per cent," and adds that there are more tenants today than were on the properties prior to the 25 per cent reduction in normal acreage.

Last year's taxes, amounting to $181,021, of which $53,400 went to the State of Mississippi, and $127,820 to the federal government, were far in excess of the benefit payments, Mr. Johnston shows.

In conclusion, Mr. Johnston says in his letter that "the payments which have been made to producers of cotton, both large and small, as part compensation for their contribution to national recovery, are negligible when compared to the enormous bounty which the consumers of America pay annually as a subsidy to the tariff protected industries of America."

ROOSEVELT SIGNS FARM TENANT BILL

$10,000,000 Expenditure To Aid Croppers Acquire Homes, Okayed for 1937

WASHINGTON, July 23.—(AP)—President Roosevelt signed legislation today authorizing the federal government to help tenants and sharecroppers acquire farm homes.

The measure was approved by congress last week after the chief executive had urged action to halt a national trend toward agricultural tenancy.

It authorizes $10,000,000 of farm purchase loans to tenants this year. Larger outlays are authorized in future years—$25,000,000 by 1939 and $50,000,000 annually thereafter.

Advocates of the new law estimated for the purchase of approximately 3,000 farms can be made under this year's authorization. The total number of tenants in the country is estimated to be 2,500,000. It has been increasing at the rate of 40,000 annually in recent years.

Aids Near-Tenants.

The tenancy legislation provides for two other activities designed to help low-income farmers. They are:

1. Rehabilitation loans to prevent small farm owners from slipping into tenancy, and to help tenants, sharecroppers and farm laborers improve their living standards.

2. Retirement of land unsuited for farming. In connection with this, the government is authorized to help families now living on submarginal land acquire good land.

Funds for the rehabilitation loans are expected to be made available by the President from relief appropriations.

Submarginal Purchases.

For the purchase of submarginal land, the measure authorized an appropriation of $10,000,000 this year and $20,000,000 each in 1939 and 1940.

Local county committees appointed by the secretary of agriculture will select tenants to whom farm purchase loans will be made. The loans will run 40 years and bear 3 per cent interest.

Tenant borrowers will be required to use, during the purchase period, farming practices prescribed by the secretary. They will be prohibited from selling their farms or their equities prior to five years from the date the loans are made.

Funds for the farm purchase loans have not yet been appropriated.

WASHINGTON, July 23 (AP) — President Roosevelt signed legislation today authorizing the federal government to help tenants and share-croppers acquire farm homes.

The measure was approved by congress last week after the chief executive had urged action to halt a national trend toward agricultural tenancy.

It authorizes $10,000,000 of farm purchase loans this year. Larger outlays are authorized in future years—$25,000,000 by 1939 and $50,000,000 annually thereafter.

Advocates of the new law estimated that loans for the purchase of approximately 3,000 farms can be made under this year's authorization. The total number of tenants in the country is estimated by authorities at 2,500,000. It has been increasing at the rate of 40,000 annually in recent years.

The tenancy legislation provides for two other activities designed to help low-income farmers. They are:

1. Rehabilitation loans to prevent small farm owners from slipping into tenancy, and to help tenants, share croppers and farm laborers improve their living standards.

2. Retirement of land unsuited for farming. In connection with this, the government is authorized to help families now living on submarginal land acquire good land.

Local Control Provided

Funds for the rehabilitation loans are expected to be made available by the president from relief appropriations.

For the purchase of submarginal land, the measure authorized an appropriation of $10,000,000 this year and $20,000,000 each in 1939 and 1940.

Local county committees appointed by the secretary of agriculture will select tenants to whom farm purchase loans will be made. The loans will run 40 years and bear 3 per cent interest.

Tenant borrowers will be required to use, during the purchase period, farming practices prescribed by the secretary. They will be prohibited from selling their farms or their equities prior to five years from the date the loans are made.

Funds for the farm purchase loans have not yet been appropriated.

President Signs Measure For Aid of Farm Tenants

Fund is Provided to Enable Renters and Share-Croppers to Purchase Land Under Long-Term Loan Plan and to Retire Poor Acres from Cultivation

British Peer Tours Mississippi Delta

From The Commercial Appeal
Jackson, Mississippi

JACKSON, Miss., Aug. 25.—Sir John Harris of Great Britain, who is studying economic development of peoples, conferred here with P. H. Easom of the Department of Education at the end of a trip through the Mississippi Delta, during which he talked with tenants.

The British peer came to Mississippi from Asheville, N. C., and Nashville, Tenn., and visited Coahoma, Bolivar and Yazoo Counties en route to Jackson, taking time to tinterview white and negro tenants on agricultural and economic conditions.

In conferring with Mr. Easom, he said he was interested in education only as it influenced the economic history of a people. His observation tour is made in the interest of the economic welfare of the British possessions, he said.

ON SOLVING THE TENANT PROBLEM

There is more than one way to solve the tenant farmer problem, and The Anniston Star in the following editorial, which in its opening passage may be a little startling but which ends as a bit of showmanship—tells one way:

> The Southern sharecropper lives on a dreary, soil-depleted farm in an unpainted shack with a sagging porch and strips of burlap over broken window panes. He is a taciturn person who emphasizes his silence with frequent ejections of tobacco juice, prefers to hunt with mournful hounds, seldom sees five dollars in cash and his credit is limited. His wife is a barefoot slattern and his staring children will grow to be replicas of their father.
>
> And with that picture you have the sharecropper as the rest of the United States sees him, and as he frequently is. His position has come to be a lamented evil, though an accepted one.
>
> But is it? One Georgia planter says "No," emphatically, and demonstrates. Martin M. Norman applied business methods to his sharecropping situation and reaped, as he says, both cash and human dividends.
>
> Name das one of Georgia's "master farmers of 1937," Norman owns 2,000 acres near Hartwell and he has no "tenant problem," although there are 22 sharecroppers and six renting tenants on his land. All of Norman's tenants agree to a program which he has mapped out after years of experimenting, but which would not be difficult for any landholder to follow.
>
> Each sharecropper must plant small portions of his plot in clover and peas and the remainder is divided between cotton, corn, oats, wheat, sorghum and one acre of garden. The diversification insures the tenants of at least some crops in case unfavorable weather conditions or pests destroy the others. The generous garden space assures him of food for himself and his family almost the year around. By rotating the crops his soil is conserved and continues to produce.
>
> Martin encourages competition between the tenant farmers, and takes them on periodic tours of the entire 2,000 acres, allowing them to discuss conditions and methods. He insists that all children attend school. The tenant homes are comfortable and kept in repair.
>
> The average tenant on Martin's farms stays 10 years and there are some who have been there 30 years. That doesn't seem odd under the conditions. The sharecroppers are making more money for Martin, but they also are making more for themselves.
>
> What Martin has done merely proves that the sharecropper problem can be licked. Martin attacked the situation and applied common-sense business methods. He didn't have a mystic formula of Government aid.
>
> But he proved that it can be done.

But somebody has observed that one difficulty with the tenant farmer is that the county demonstration agent is prone to pass him up for the land-owner who offers the visiting county agent a more agreeable, inviting environment—for obvious reasons. There is a feeling that tenant farmers do not receive the full measure of attention from publicly-employed experts that is their due. As to the justice of this criticism The Advertiser is not prepared to express an opinion, but it nevertheless would be glad to have any county agent who feels so disposed to write this newspaper his opinion of the criticism. Is it true or not?

The landless class of farmer plainly is in greater need of expert coaching than any other class. If this landless class is not getting the benefit of competent coaching by professional experts, why isn't he? Let's have a little discussion of this question here in Alabama. There isn't a better place than Alabama to have such a discussion.

Sweetwater, Tenn. News
August 19, 1937

NEGROES . . . Southern booms

A few weeks ago I visited a typical Southern plantation and had a chance to learn how the Negro employees were treated. There are thirty families employed the year 'round on this ten-thousand acre tract, with extra help at cotton-picking and harvest times. The head of each family is paid $30 a month. They get living quarters and fuel free, and all they want of the foodstuffs grown on the place. Most of of poultry. The Negroes have their own community center or "jook" where they have their dances and the cabins have gardens and flocks social affairs. In case of illness, they get free medical care.

How many Northern white workers, I wonder, have $30 a month left after aying rent, food and doctor's bills? Not many. In addition, the women and older children are given first chance on this plantation to earn extra money at picking time. The Negro foremen get $50 a month and better quarters.

I was remnded of whiat Booker T. Washington, the great Negro educator, said to me years ago, "The best friend of the Southern Negro is the Southern white man."

Agriculture - 1937
Condition of

General

LETTERS FROM THE PEOPLE

Think for Yourself and Let Others Enjoy the Privilege to Do So.—Voltaire.

FARM TENANTS AND HOUSING

To the Editor of The Telegraph:

We do not know anything about other sections of the country but there are certain problems concerning this section of the state we must solve or move. We believe it is a mistake to build any more houses in the cities. The so-called slum clearance building will add an additional burden of population which will require more charity.

We need thousands of tenant's houses in this section of the state. The land owner cannot build them for lack of funds, the tenant can not build them for lack of time. So the tenants are moving to the cities to get on relief which cost so much that the property owners can not pay the taxes.

The Remedy

On account of soil erosion this section must change from cotton to timber, fruits and live stock.

Pass an act requiring all tenants and landowners to make contracts not for one year but for five years at least. Give the tenant a certain area of timber land to cultivate and a percentage of the timber for his labor, like he receives of other crops. Knowing that he is fixed for five years the tenant instead of going to town to buy vegetables, milk and butter will make arrangements to raise these at home; and the time spent in going back and forth to town will be spent in making improvements in his home.

Ex-Senator Zeb Vance of North Carolina, 60 years ago, speaking to the farmers of his state said: "Formerly we could tell when a tenant was planning to move. For several weeks before hand you would hear pigs squealing, cows lowing, chickens cackling, on account of being cooped up ready for moving day but losing something with every move they have become so poor that now all they have to do to move is put out the fire and call the dog!"

Real Housing

Let the tenant spend his moving time by building a real house on the farm. We mean by that a house which will last a thousand years. The idea occurred to us from inspecting homes in France built over a thousand years ago. Built of rock and cement, not of timber which at best will not last but a few years if not destroyed by fire. Not built in a week or a year but over a period of several years. Not built away from other houses but in villages for the benefit of community society. The tenant to have pay for his labor on the house or a property right to a certain percentage of the value of the building, which equity he could sell to others as to the land owner.

The old plantation of the South was a complete entity. Everything to eat and wear was raised on its place. Salt, sugar and coffee and a few luxuries were all that were bought. One third of the time was not spent talking politics and loafing around the town.

The law passed by the Pilgrams before they landed at Plymouth was the wisest and most essential law ever passed by any law-making body since the beginning of time: "No work, no eats"! Temporary donations are sometimes necessary, but regular wages for relief or partial employment building houses in the sand which cannot stand but must fall on the goose which lays the golden egg.

Warm Springs, Ga. NEAL KITCHENS.

Teamwork Would Benefit Business Man and Farmer, A. B. A. Official Declares

Agriculture Far-Reaching In Its Effects On Daily Lives—Otis Calls for More Sane Management Of Land to Prevent Waste

Following is the text of Dan H. Otis' address before the Mid-South Farm Forum yesterday:

Business men who think clearly realize that agriculture is basic. Thirty-two million people living on farms in this country must produce food and clothing for nearly three times this number that are living in towns and cities. This farm group includes 21.5 per cent of the people gainfully employed. Since food is essential to every human being, it stands to reason there must be a close relationship between the food producer and the food consumer—a vital relation between agriculture and industry. Except for what little comes from the sea forest and mine, agriculture furnishes the ultimate source of wealth.

In 1929 the national income was approximately $85,000,000,000. In the same year the gross income from agriculture was approximately $12,000,000,000. One-seventh of our purchasing power came from agriculture. In discussing the agriculture situation, a report emanating from the land-grant colleges and universities states that agriculture stimulates industry and normally it produces: (1) The bulk of the country's food supply; (2) nearly 40 per cent of the raw material used by factories; (3) 12 per cent of the railroad tonnage and 20 per cent of total railroad revenue; (4) about 40 per cent of the value of our total exports. Regardless of profit, agriculture is a stabilizing influence in the Nation's business.

Wise statesmanship will recognize the lesson revealed in the long history of many countries that remunerative agriculture and a virile farm population are essential to the growth of a nation. With purchasing power available, the six million farm homes furnish a tremendous market for the thousands of articles comprising necessities and comforts.

Agriculture, Industry Have Mutual Interests

Recognizing the interdependence of agriculture and industry, many business organizations, including great industrial manufacturing and transportation corporations, have inaugurated effective and extensive campaigns for better farming. These include implement firms, chambers of commerce, railroads, and state and national bankers associations. The importance of this is expressed by Eugene Meyer when he said "it is up to the bankers and the business men of America to make up their minds whether they want to help dig the farmer out of the hole or whether they wish to be in the hole with him."

The degree of intelligence a nation displays in the use of its land is an index of its civilization. Unfortunately, in America alarming acreages have been mined of their fertility and in other ways exploited and wasted. Losses in productive capacity have tended to counteract the wonderful gains made by scientific research.

Conditions are now approaching a national emergency. Not desiring conquest or colonization, America is faced with a serious problem—the handling of her soil resources for the benefit of both our present and future generations. This must include the prevention of abusive and exploitative as well as unwise settlement which frequently involves unwarranted costs for local government. Factors contributing to soil fertility, land conservation and wise farm practices need to be recognized and encouraged as a matter of service to our national welfare.

History records the rise and fall of many nations. Not one that neglected her agriculture has survived. Will America succeed where others have failed? The answer depends upon whether we are wise enough to make agriculture productive, profitable and permanent. Drouth-made damage may heal with rain. Man-made damage resulting from unwise settlement, exploitation, acceleration, etc., will be lessened through a well-thoughtout, long-time program of soil management and repair. This is a problem not only for the farmer but for every patriotic, far-seeing citizen of the richly endowed country.

Survey Shows Loss From Soil Erosion

Millions of years have been required to form our incomparable rich valleys and fertile plains, yet in 100 years, as indicated by the following figures based on a national erosion survey, the work of centuries has been allowed to wash away.

Amount of land affected (1)

	Acres	Pct. of total area*
Area with little or no erosion	576,236,371	30.3
Total area affected by sheet erosion	855,260,347	44.9
Total area affected by wind erosion	322,181,740	16.9
Total area affected by gullying	864,181,281	45.4

(1) Soil Conservation Service, United States Department of Agriculture.

*Some overlapping is involved.

In the four states participating in the Plant To Prosper program, sheet erosion occurs on from 26 to 80 per cent of the land and gullying occurs on from 44 to 84 per cent.

Soil erosion is such an important subject in most of the states that the Agriculture Commission of the American Bankers' Association has adopted it as a national project. We believe that conditions are right for an aggressive campiagn. This furnishes another opportunity for business men to team with other agencies on a project delayed entirely too long but one that means much for the future and permanent development of our respective communities.

The New Jersey experiment station has issued a bulletin which shows that the soils of the United States are suffering a net annual loss of 3,000,000 tons of phosphorus, almost 10 times as much as is supplied by chemical fertilizers. At the present rate of losses from erosion, leaching and cropping, phosphorus would be exhausted in about 234 years.

The net annual loss of nitrogen is estimated at about 10,000,000 tons. This is equivalent to more than 30 times the amount supplied by commercial fertilizers. At our rate of loss the nitrogen in the top soil will be exhausted in about 225 years. The net loss of potash is such as to indicate that our top soil will be exhausted in about 193 years. While our calcium (lime) at the present rate of loss will be exhausted in about 169 years.

Call For Measures To Conserve Soil

The losses of plant nutrients, as indicated above, are of such a character as to call for prompt adoption of a measure which will insure more or less effective conservation and a lessening of the drain on our resources of our plant nutrients.

We believe the time is ripe for creating a soil reserve, as well as a bank reserve. In fact, soil reserves help create bank reserves and in return help develop ways by which farmers can profitably use bank loans.

Credit is sound when based on normal land values determined by earning power. It can well be made contingent on the top 6 to 8 inches of soil being adequately protected from erosion. These represent the farmer's productive capital. Excess credit on poor land tensed to prolong the use of that which is submarginal. A sound land policy and a sound credit policy are good teammates.

Field crops have been divided into three groups: Soil depleting, soil conserving and soil improving. The judgment exercised in bringing about a well-balanced program of selection, production and utilization has much to do with making our agriculture productive, profitable and permanent. This in turn reacts favorably on the prosperity of the entire community.

Very approriately much stress is and should be placed upon clean, well-bred seed, carefully selected and subjected to a germination test. Fortunately our plant breeders have developed superior strains, capable of good production and which are disease and cold resistant.

A good illustration of improvement through seed is where communities are organized to grow only one variety of cotton and where adequate stocks of good seed are maintained. In such communities there is no mixing of different kinds of seed at the gin, or cross-

ing in the fields. Production is effectively standardized on uniform high quality fiber.

Business groups can well co-operate with county agents in getting farmers of their respective communities to concentrate upon one or two varieties of well-bred and well-selected seed for crops adapted to the community.

Legumes along with pasture improvement, contribute toward the establishment of an adequate feed reserve, the importance of which has been repeatedly emphasized during recent drouths.

In connection with a cropping program, an extra half acre devoted to the garden may bring large returns, not in cash, but in supplying the family with needed, healthful food, and at the same time materially decrease cash expenditures. It is possible to produce cultivated crops for human food and feed for livestock in such a manner as to check erosion and maintain or increase soil resources.

Livestock Will Produce Income, Fertility

Beef and dairy cattle, hogs, sheep and poultry can be made to contribute to increased cash income and at the same time help maintain fertility. Disease-free livestock, with an abundance of home-grown feed, sanitary quarters, in a livestock minded community, plus a liking for the livestock business, are good prerequisites and safeguards for profitable investments in high-quality livestock.

The farm inventory is the first step in keeping farm accounts. It is a necessary factor in understanding the farm business and in establishing and maintaining good credit rating. The farm inventory lists farm resources, farm liabilities and the value of each. It is the simplest form of financial record and shows more for the time spent than any other form of account. It reveals real wealth, the direction in which financial affairs are moving and whether credit should be asked or extended.

Some of the outstanding advantages of a farm inventory may be summarized as follows:

It permits comparison of two or more years and shows net gain or loss.

It serves as a basis for planning farm operation the following year.

It forms a basis for credit statements and farm loan.

It gives a clue as to whether the farm is properly squipped.

It helps in deciding if there is a need for a farm reserve—fertility, feed and cash.

A farm inventory, with a copy on file at the bank for safekeeping, is especially important in giving lists of properties in the event of fire, thus saving time, trouble and money.

As distance between lender and borrower increases, the greater the need for a farm inventory as a basis for a credit statement.

Farmers who take inventory are more desirable bank customers than those who are forced to prepare an inventory and financial statement only when loans are desired. When both farmer and banker are familiar with what the annual inventory reveals it is easier to get together on loans.

Both banker and farmer will be greatly helped by considering together the annual farm credit statement. Often this is a revelation. It shows types of business management and indicates chances for improvement. It is a guide to the amount of credit which can be used with safety.

Credit statements help in working out a plan of operation for the coming year and future developments. It helps to answer such questions as whether the farm business is being conducted under the rules for safe farming. It indicates whether the farm family is being supported largely from the products from the farm. These, with the previous record of success, serve as a yardstick by which to judge of the merits of a proposed loan.

The splendid start in this section on the Plant to Prosper program is helping to bring about closer co-operation and better understanding between farmers and business men. Any affective agricultural program requires education, encouragement and leadership. Since farming is a basic industry, the business man in town has a part to play. Anything that affects our agriculture for good or ill likewise affects industry in common. The welfare of each individual, as well as the Nation, rests ultimately on maintaining and improving our agricultural resources.

Said a railroad executive to a newly appointed agricultural agent, "If you are called upon to advise a farmer or a community in the choice between two crops, one of which produced large tonnage but small profit and the other produces large profits but low tonnage, always advise the crop that offers the greatest profit to the producer." Then he added, "If a community is economically healthy, tonnage will take care of itself." Such a broad-minded and far-seeing vision on the part of business men is bound to build any community.

With continued readjustments in agriculture and industry, this team work will be an important factor in restoring and maintaining prosperity. We are learning that all-important lesson that our success is inseparably tied up with the success of the other fellow.

Agriculture - 1937
Condition of

General

Every Fourth Farm Family Is Insecure, Roosevelt Tenancy Committee Data Shows

Tenants and Croppers Hardest Hit, U. S. Survey Shows

This is the second installment from the official government report on Farm Tenancy which the Daily Worker is printing in full.

The full report was prepared under the auspices of the National Resources Committee February, 1937, and was issued as the findings of President Roosevelt's Committee on Farm Tenancy, Secretary Wallace, chairman.

Groups Now Insecure

The Committee's examination of the agricultural ladder has indicated a series of groups of farm families whose insecurity is a threat to the integrity of rural life. The families comprised within these groups constitute fully half the total farm population of the country. Approximately one farm family out of four occupies a position in the nation's social and economic structure that is precarious and should not be tolerated.

The principal groups found to be at a disadvantage in their relationship to the land are:

Tenants

Although in all areas of the United States there are notable instances of desirable relationships between tenants and landlords, tenancy conditions, in many cases and areas, are unsatisfactory to both tenant and landlord, are condemned by both, and are objectionable from the point of view of social welfare.

Tenants still move with some freedom up the agricultural ladder. Yet, tenancy in many areas presents problems of insecurity, instability of occupancy, and lack of concern with soil conservation. About two-thirds of the tenants and croppers of the United States are located in the South. The problem there, it should be noted, is not a race problem, for southern tenants and croppers two-thirds are whites and only one-third are Negroes.

Croppers

The cropper system prevails principally in the Southern cotton and tobacco areas. Croppers operate 716,000 farms, **or over ten per cent of all farms in the United States:** They constitute 39 per cent of all tenants in the South. ("Tenants" here include croppers popularly known as "share croppers," though in some States croppers are not legally regarded as tenants. As compared with the number of croppers and Southern farm laborers combined, croppers make up 48 per cent of total.)

Croppers, who generally supply only their labor, are usually the most insecure group of tenants. Even the slender protection of the cropper contract has recently become less effective, as conditions have impelled landlords to convert many croppers into laborers, dependent on casual employment for wages. Low standards of living among croppers are in some sections giving rise to unrest.

Farm Laborers

More than one-fourth of all persons gainfully employed in agricul-

Meagerly Paid Farm Laborers 'Better' Situated

are those, who, though hired on a monthly basis, have year-long employment, residing on the farm of the employers. These include among others, the hired men who live in the homes of their employer and are treated almost as members of the family—apparently a group that has diminished in relative importance.

Probably the great majority of hired farm laborers are dependent on irregular employment. Many move about within one general locality. These include: individuals who live on farms and occasionally help neighboring farmers; occupiers of small subsistence units and who depend on casual farm employment for a small and uncertain cash income; and casual workers from town and cities who migrate to nearby cotton fields, truck or fruit farms to work in seasons of peak labor requirements. In the South, families alternately become croppers and hired laborers. There is also a large and apparently increasing number of laborers who migrate long distances from the locality which they regard as "home." **Such laborers migrate both as individuals and as families. The latter frequently depend upon the wages of men, women and children to eke out a bare subsistence.** Some of them have no permanent abode. They work mainly with intensive crops such as fruit, sugar beets, and vegetables, following the harvest season from locality to locality.

Some laborers succeed in climbing into the status of tenants or even owners. **In depression periods, however, large numbers of tenants and small owners overburdened with debt become migratory laborers. Most farm laborers have uncertainty of employment as their general lot;** their earnings and standard of living are correspondingly low. But the situation of the hand laborers in intensive agriculture is especially precarious. The conditions under which they work and live have already promoted strife in widely scattered areas. West of the Mississippi the number of migratory laborers has recently been augmented by farm families from drought areas.

End of 1,000-Mile Trail—Tent Home

Dust and drought found slim pickings on this farmer after the banks and insurance company mortgage holders got through. But drought drove him off his farm and on a long trek to a government project in Oregon. The family then set up home in a tent.

The Answer Is Unity Of Negro and White

The small independent American farmer is vanishing. He is becoming a tenant or a farm laborer.

That was established in the first installment of the Report on Farm Tenancy issued by Roosevelt's committee with Secretary Wallace as Chairman.

But what becomes of the farmer robbed of his land by the process of concentration of ownership into the hands of landlords and banks? The Wallace report discusses that in this second installment.

Today's installment shows that over ten per cent of all American farms are operated on the "share-cropper" system, that 40 per cent of all Southern farms are run by share-croppers. Under this system, the farmer and his family, landless, without any farm implements, or any cash, must go to the landlord and rent from him land, implements, and live-stock. In addition, the farmer and his family must borrow food, clothes, etc., from the landlord. In return, he turns his crop over to the landlords as payment. He "shares" the crop—if anything is left for him after he pays his debts, which is but rarely. **The Wallace report shows that almost half the Southern farmers live in this semi-feudal slavery.**

But even this pitiful existence is denied to hundreds of thousands of American farm families, for Wallace's report reveals that "more than one fourth of all persons gainfully employed in agriculture in 1930 were farm wage laborers." **These are migratory families without any homes, and the entire family, including the children of tender age, must work in the fields.**

In today's installment, Roosevelt's Committee, while describing these conditions, commits some serious errors of omission by ignoring the financial mechanics of capitalism in agriculture by which the big landlords and banks have succeeded in concentrating so much of America's farm lands into their hands. Instead, the report actually sympathizes with the landlords by saying that the cropping system is "unsatisfactory to both tenant and landlord."

Furthermore, the report ignores the special exploitation to which the Negro croppers, who constitute fully one-third of the Southern croppers, are subjected by the landlords and banks.

The report does show, however, that a majority of the white farmers in the South are share-croppers. This fact shows the urgent need for a program of united struggle of Negro and white croppers against the landlord system and the usury and mortgage slavery of the banks.

Agriculture - 1937
Condition of

General

Every Fourth Farm Family Is Insecure, Roosevelt Tenancy Committee Data Shows

Tenants and Croppers Hardest Hit, U. S. Survey Shows

This is the second installment from the official government report on Farm Tenancy which the Daily Worker is printing in full.

The full report was prepared under the auspices of the National Resources Committee February, 1937, and was issued as the findings of President Roosevelt's Committee on Farm Tenancy, Secretary Wallace, chairman.

Groups Now Insecure

The Committee's examination of the agricultural ladder has indicated a series of groups of farm families whose insecurity is a threat to the integrity of rural life. The families comprised within these groups constitute fully half the total farm population of the country. Approximately one farm family out of four occupies a position in the nation's social and economic structure that is precarious and should not be tolerated.

The principal groups found to be at a disadvantage in their relationship to the land are:

Tenants

Although in all areas of the United States there are notable instances of desirable relationships between tenants and landlords, tenancy conditions, in many cases and areas, are unsatisfactory to both tenant and landlord, are condemned by both, and are objectionable from the point of view of social welfare.

Tenants still move with some freedom up the agricultural ladder. Yet, tenancy in many areas presents problems of insecurity, instability of occupancy, and lack of concern with soil conservation. About two-thirds of the tenants and croppers of the United States are located in the South. The problem there, it should be noted, is not a race problem, for southern tenants and croppers two-thirds are whites and only one-third are Negroes.

Croppers

The cropper system prevails principally in the Southern cotton and tobacco areas. Croppers operate 716,000 farms, **or over ten per cent of all farms in the United States:** They constitute 39 per cent of all tenants in the South. ("Tenants" here include croppers popularly known as "share croppers," though in some States croppers are not legally regarded as tenants. As compared with the number of croppers and Southern farm laborers combined, croppers make up 48 per cent of total.)

Croppers, who generally supply only their labor, are usually the most insecure group of tenants. Even the slender protection of the cropper contract has recently become less effective, as conditions have impelled landlords to convert many croppers into laborers, dependent on casual employment for wages. Low standards of living among croppers are in some sections giving rise to unrest.

Farm Laborers

More than one-fourth of all persons gainfully employed in agricul-

Meagerly Paid Farm Laborers 'Better' Situated

are those, who, though hired on a monthly basis, have year-long employment, residing on the farm of the employers. These include among others, the hired men who live in the homes of their employer and are treated almost as members of the family—apparently a group that has diminished in relative importance.

Probably the great majority of hired farm laborers are dependent on irregular employment. Many move about within one general locality. These include: individuals who live on farms and occasionally help neighboring farmers; occupiers of small subsistence units and who depend on casual farm employment for a small and uncertain cash income; and casual workers from town and cities who migrate to nearby cotton fields, truck or fruit farms to work in seasons of peak labor requirements. In the South, families alternately become croppers and hired laborers. There is also a large and apparently increasing number of laborers who migrate long distances from the locality which they regard as "home." **Such laborers migrate both as individuals and as families. The latter frequently depend upon the wages of men, women and children to eke out a bare subsistence.** Some of them have no permanent abode. They work mainly with intensive crops such as fruit, sugar beets, and vegetables, following the harvest season from locality to locality.

Some laborers succeed in climbing into the status of tenants or even owners. **In depression periods, however, large numbers of tenants and small owners overburdened with debt become migratory laborers. Most farm laborers have uncertainty of employment as their general lot;** their earnings and standard of living are correspondingly low. But the situation of the hand laborers in intensive agriculture is especially precarious. The conditions under which they work and live have already promoted strife in widely scattered areas. West of the Mississippi the number of migratory laborers has recently been augmented by farm families from drought areas.

End of 1,000-Mile Trail—Tent Home

Dust and drought found slim pickings on this farmer after the banks and insurance company mortgage holders got through. But drought drove him off his farm and on a long trek to a government project in Oregon. The family then set up home in a tent.

The Answer Is Unity Of Negro and White

The small independent American farmer is vanishing. He is becoming a tenant or a farm laborer.

That was established in the first installment of the Report on Farm Tenancy issued by Roosevelt's committee with Secretary Wallace as Chairman.

But what becomes of the farmer robbed of his land by the process of concentration of ownership into the hands of landlords and banks? The Wallace report discusses that in this second installment.

Today's installment shows that over ten per cent of all American farms are operated on the "share-cropper" system, that 40 per cent of all Southern farms are run by share-croppers. Under this system, the farmer and his family, landless, without any farm implements, or any cash, must go to the landlord and rent from him land, implements, and live-stock. In addition, the farmer and his family must borrow food, clothes, etc., from the landlord. In return, he turns his crop over to the landlords as payment. He "shares" the crop—if anything is left for him after he pays his debts, which is but rarely. **The Wallace report shows that almost half the Southern farmers live in this semi-feudal slavery.**

But even this pitiful existence is denied to hundreds of thousands of American farm families, for Wallace's report reveals that "more than one fourth of all persons gainfully employed in agriculture in 1930 were farm wage laborers." **These are migratory families without any homes, and the entire family, including the children of tender age, must work in the fields.**

In today's installment, Roosevelt's Committee, while describing these conditions, commits some serious errors of omission by ignoring the financial mechanics of capitalism in agriculture by which the big landlords and banks have succeeded in concentrating so much of America's farm lands into their hands. Instead, the report actually sympathizes with the landlords by saying that the cropping system is "unsatisfactory to both tenant and landlord."

Furthermore, the report ignores the special exploitation to which the Negro croppers, who constitute fully one-third of the Southern croppers, are subjected by the landlords and banks.

The report does show, however, that a majority of the white farmers in the South are share-croppers. This fact shows the urgent need for a program of united struggle of Negro and white croppers against the landlord system and the usury and mortgage slavery of the banks.

OUR SOUTH AT THE CROSSROADS

The Advertiser had a pleasant, reassuring interview yesterday with The Progressive Farmer, one of the most enlightened journals in the Southern States. The Advertiser read in this organ of rural life two articles that brightened its spirits. We read the publicity clipsheets released by The Farmer, the first of which is as follows:

> The demonstration of the Rust cotton picker several months ago received nation-wide attention. Since then there have been tests of several other mechanical pickers, including one on which it is said a million dollars has been spent. The result of these experiments is of the utmost importance to everyone in the South, from the wealthiest business man to the humblest Negro field hand.
>
> In this connection The Progressive Farmer reports that the U. S. Department of Agriculture in cooperation with spinners is now conducting extensive tests to determine the grade and spinning qualities of machine-gathered cotton. "Mechanical harvesting of cotton will not be practicable unless (1) less trash is gathered by the picker or (2) satisfactory means are found to remove the trash either at the gin or at the mill.".

The second sheet that we read was on an entirely different line, but was not less pertinent. It is as follows:

> New hope for farm tenants is held out by Dr. Clarence Poe, member of President Roosevelt's Farm Tenancy Commission, in his editorial in this month's Progressive Farmer. In part he says:
>
> "We seem really to have come to a new era in Southern upbuilding—the third since Appomattox, as will be seen from this analysis:—
>
> "1. For 35 years from 1865 to 1900, or about one generation, the South was fighting for just two things—to recover the material losses of the war and to establish the supremacy of the white race.
>
> "2. Then for 35 years from 1900 to 1935, or a second generation, leaders of Southern progress concentrated on two more things—universal education and universally improved highways.
>
> "3. Now in the new 35-year period (1935-1970) on which we have just entered it looks as if we may have two other goals of Southern economic progress—universal home ownership (so far as it is practicable to achieve it) and the conservation of natural resources, especially soils and forests. And it is significant that both these programs—both that for soil conservation and that for home ownership—are getting 'full steam ahead' at practically the same time: 1936 saw a new beginning of a national program for soil conservation and 1937 will see the beginning of an effective national program for home ownership."

The South, like other regions, possibly more than the others, is an afflicted country. Its hazards are great, but they are not insurmountable. We need more and not less debate about the South's problems. We who live here have got to think our way out! The Advertiser believes that we are equal to this responsibility. Let us dig deep into the basic problems of the South and speak frankly of what we find. Otherwise we shall sink. But we shall not sink. Southerners are a brave, if prejudiced, people. They have been true to themselves in the past—let them be equally true to themselvs in the future. Let them identify their problems and accept gladly the probable remedies.

THE STATESMAN'S OPPORTUNITY

There is danger that the farm tenancy bill, to which most people are friendly and few opposed, may yet die from exposure and neglect. The President's scheme for the reorganization of the administrative department and his scheme for revolutionizing the Supreme Court excite greater controversy. These two issues may yet overshadow the tenancy bill, to which the President is heartily committed. There is danger that Congress may not act upon this measure NOW. If it does not, the fight will be lost for years to come.

In the meantime the South is growing steadily poorer. Our soil is washing away to the sea, our tenants and croppers become increasingly migratory. For more than half a century tenancy has been steadily increasing. Tenant returns have steadily diminished—only soil depletion has increased. The floating land-worker is steadily ruining the country because the country does nothing to make him a lover of the soil. It does all too little to train him and make him efficient and effective. It does all too little to improve his physical vigor and brighten his social outlook. In consequence, as an economic unit, he exists only as a liability.

The President's commission on tenancy seems to have made a powerful impression upon him, for he sent that report to Congress with a vigorous recommendation for an early attack upon the tenant problem.

That commission says in its report that half a century ago one of every four farmers was a tenant. Today two of every five are tenants. They operate land and buildings valued at $11,000,000,000.

For the past ten years the number of new tenants every year has been about 40,000. "Many change farms every two or three years, and apparently one out of three remains no longer than one year."

Further: "Thousands of farm operators commonly considered owners are as insecure as tenants, because in some areas the farmers' equity in their property is as little as one-fifth."

Fully half the total farm population of the United States has no adequate security.

The greatest tenant burden is in the South, and here two-thirds of our tenants are white. But farm tenancy is a "Tobacco Road" vice in other sections of the country. Tenancy is a national calamity.

Tenancy cannot be corrected overnight. Everybody knows that. Nobody of sense has any illusions about the magnitude of the problem. No man of sense expects the Federal government to stuff the pockets of all tenants and croppers with "stage money" and tell them to buy land and prosper. That is not the idea. It is the plain duty of the Federal government that first granted homesteads to reckless Americans, that was first to yield the national domain to speculators and soil-killers, first to make fools of our land-loving people, to take the leadership now in redeeming the dispossessed from a state of degradation and make them self-sustaining by carefully selecting "credit risks", in the first years, and by launching a vast sociological experiment.

All who think know that the problem is real, that it is vast. All must realize that the great need of our perishing countryside is for IMMEDIATE ACTION.

Don't let tenancy-reform die between the wheels of administrative reform and court reform! That is the prospect, unless Southern Senators and Southern Representatives demand action NOW!

There is no active opposition to the tenancy bill, but there is apathy, a much deadlier foe.

What Congress needs today is the energy of Senator John Hollis Bankhead, the father of the original tenant measure. But the Senator is ill in Arizona and is not able to fight for his cause in its present plight.

The Advertiser ventures to suggest, in the circumstances, that the Senator's colleagues in the Alabama delegation start the ball rolling by demanding immediate action in honor of the Alabama prophet of rural redemption.

The Advertiser ventures to say that such seasoned veterans as Senator Hugo Black, Speaker William B. Bankhead, Congressman Henry B. Steagall, Congressman Lister Hill and Congressman Samuel F. Hobbs take it upon themselves NOW to demand the immediate enactment of a wise and moderate farm tenant bill.

Let these gentlemen go into a huddle and ascertain how best to interest the Congressional delegations from other States in the blessed cause of immediate action.

Away with apathy, gentlemen! Act! Strike now! Demand action, because no other State suffers more bitterly from this unnatural condition of tenancy than Alabama.

Alabama, we have reason to think, is tired of being poor. In particular is it tired of being unnecessarily poor. Demand action, gentlemen! You can get it!

Agriculture -1937

General.

Condition of

AGRARIAN "REVOLUTIONS"

After the French revolution the peasants came into land ownership on a grand scale. Today most French farms are small and are privately owned, and no farms in the world are more passionately loved or more tenderly cared for.

After the Russian Revolution the great estates came under government ownership and were operated cooperatively by the peasants, but the independent peasants have been slow to yield to the blandishments of Communism. The agrarian question is still acute in Russia, but there has been a considerable reform.

The Mexican Revolution, which began in 1912 and has continued until now, was as much agrarian as anything else. Destruction of land monopoly was in the hearts of all revolutionists who were not mere bandits, which many of them were.

Actually land ownership has been redistributed and today President Cardenas, a social and political radical, is ardently loyal to the agrarian point of view.

Recently The Advertiser has been receiving a daily propaganda letter from Mexico City. Apparently Cardenas has hired a smart American newspaper man to write his publicity.

Yesterday, for instance, the following news letter, issued by the National Revolutionary Party, came to this desk:

In carrying out its agrarian policy of breaking up large plantations and giving the land so expropriated to peasants organized in communal land-holding groups, the Cardenas Administration has laid special emphasis on three kinds of aid found necessary besides the delivery of soil.

The first of these aids is financial, the National Eijdal Credit Bank providing the communal societies with whatever credit they need; the second aid is performed chiefly by the Departments of Health, Education, and Communications and provides sanitary services, schools and roads to the various villages concerned; and the third aid is the arming of the peasant groups that they may defend their lands, homes and persons against aggression.

This last aid has been found indispensable, as since the inception of the land devolution policy peasants receiving or even asking for land have been frequently attacked by armed bands opposed to the Mexican Social Revolution.

Upon being given arms the peasants are enrolled in the National Army reserve corps and special officers are detailed to train and organize them, giving special attention to the development among the peasants of the spirit of service and of cooperation animating the Army of the Revolution.

Whatever fundamental changes in land ownership or operation in France, Russia and Mexico may have occurred came about through violent revolution.

In the Scandinavian countries land ownership reform was achieved without bloodshed, ordinary political processes being sufficient. Today both Denmark and Sweden have advanced, enlightened systems of land ownership, and are prosperous as well as at peace.

Yesterday the President of the United States sent a message to Congress in behalf of the American tenant farmer. We are now facing a revolution in land ownership and operation in this country which involves no injury to present holders and no gory triumphs for those who are yet to buy and own land by the aid of the public treasury.

In truth, the tenants themselves have taken almost no part in formulating a friendly public opinion in their behalf. The agitation for them has been conducted by land owners, newspapers and a few forward-looking members of Congress.

In other words, disinterested people have made the fight for the dispossessed—that is, the fight has been made by comparatively disinterested people. Actually all Americans have an interest at stake in the fight against tenancy, since if redemption means anything it means a larger buying power for the tenants, and so, greater prosperity for all concerned, including the newspapers that are cooperating so earnestly.

Some Federal plan to finance the rescue of selected tenants, white and black, and make them land-owners and so better farmers (under supervision) will undoubtedly be enacted at this session of Congress. The plan will work. It should work as well as home-redemption financing has worked. It will not be perfect in its operation, but it will be satisfactory on the whole, if wisely administered.

In the end, and the end is not far away, men who now work other people's land for an income that gives them a lower standard of living than Continental European peasants enjoy, will work their own small tracts of land, under expert supervision, and so become better citizens and bigger buyers.

As matters stand they now buy nothing worth mentioning, and so merchants everywhere have reason to be sympathetic with the scheme. Bankers should be especially interested, since bankers naturally think in terms of the total buying power of populations. Lawyers, doctors and public officials are interested, since they prosper in the same ratio that the lowest stratum of society prospers. Since newspapers live on all of these, they, too, are interested.

But what we started out to say and are only now getting to is that we are about to have an agrarian revolution in the United States without the loss of blood—indeed, almost without the loss of sweat.

That's because this is a democratic country.

We are doing better by the dispossessed than either Mussolini or Hitler. Why don't they tackle their domestic land problems?

Macon, Ga., Telegraph
February 4, 1937

Southern Share-Cropping

In The Telegraph of Monday of last week is a discussion of the "Future of Cotton Tenancy", under the general heading "The South Today".

The article was written by W. M. Johnson, and it is one of a series being sent out by the Southern Newspaper Syndicate.

Mr. Johnson has a thorough understanding of the southern problem. His writing is intelligent and fair. He has no hidden motive in drawing his picture. He regards the tenant system as a means to an end. It was inevitable under the conditions that existed in the South after the War of the 1860's. The newly emancipated Negroes were, to a considerable extent, irresponsible. Many of them had never worked except under compulsion, and when they were freed before they were prepared for it, many of them could not be trusted to operate farms of their own. They would go off to protracted meeting or to camp meeting, and leave their livestock penned up for an entire week without food or water. They would ramble away from their farms in midsummer, leaving the crops to go to grass. Especially would they do such things if they had already bought on credit and borrowed all they could hope to get out of the landlord.

Some of the Negroes were not so irresponsible. They would do their best. Many of those who were brought over to this country as slaves were of a high order. They were intelligent, industrious, and trustworthy, but it was difficult to distinguish the better from the worse, without having experience with both; so landlords, eager to sell or to rent their vast acres, conceived the idea of the tenant system, and the more responsible Negroes were assisted in various ways to become farmers. In due time renters had their own stock and their own farm implements, and a considerable number of them bought the land and assumed the privilege of landlords, if owning land could be considered much of a privilege in those dark days.

Then some of the wages-hands proved themselves a little more worthy, and the landlords, eager to give them a chance, let them have farms of their own, and assumed all of the financial risk, but agreed to allow a share in the crop to compensate for the labor. This is called share-cropping. Both systems were intended to teach the former slave how to pull himself up in the world.

Arthur Raper, who has written extensively on the subject, having published a large book called "Preface to Peasantry", and having written a series of articles for the Southern Newspaper Syndicate, has entirely missed the point. In some of his articles in The Telegraph he points out only the evil in the system. He forgot the grand and benigr purpose of it, and what he wrote seems to have been inspired by prejudice only.

He proceeded on the idea that the landlord was a bad man because he owned land, and that share-cropping and tenancy were just another form of slavery. Mr. Raper has written as one who doesn't like the heart and soul of the southern white man and believes that he should be reformed. All of the white man's efforts to make the most

of his distress, and to do the best he could in his crippled condition to lift up himself and the people dependent upon him were overlooked by Mr. Raper. Mr. Johnson, on the other hand, writes understandingly, and what he has to say of the South today is well worth reading. Men like Mr. Raper can produce all sorts of trouble if they have enough genius. Mrs. Harriet Beecher Stowe had the genius, and she used it with deadly effect, causing untold and unnecessary woe and misery to millions of Americans, white and black. Mr. Raper writes as one who would do the same thing if he could.

It is well that men like Mr. Johnson can come to the front and present the South today in its true light, and put light where Raper leaves gloom.

Lexington, S. C. Dispatch-News
January 28, 1937

The only people who have, or who will ever have, complete social security, is the southern farm negro. The white man furnishes him with a house to live in, all the wood he can burn, a plot for a garden, and pays him a wage large enough to meet his standard of living. He can always get a job if he is worth his salt, and (from his viewpoint) has nothing to worry over, if he doesn't have to work Saturday afternoons, when he goes to town, mills around and has a good time. His worries are few and far between.

U. S. Data Backs Tenant Farm Union Charges on Planters

Wholesale Violations of Cotton Control Program Admitted in Agriculture Department's Statement on Living Scale

In a letter made public by the United States Department of Agriculture on March 8, which has just been received here, Cully A. Cobb, Director of the Southern Division of Soil Conservation program, substantiated charges made repeatedly by officers and members of the Southern Tenant Farmers' Union that the cotton control program was being consistently violated by southern planters, and that sharecroppers and tenants were being driven down to a lower scale of living as casual day laborers on the cotton plantations.

The statement: "The Agricultural Adjustment Administration today made public the following letter from Cully A. Cobb, Director of the Southern Division, to administrative officers in charge of the Agricultural Conservation Program in the nine states in the Southern Region:

"This Division has received, in the last few weeks from the various States, a number of complaints from both sharecroppers and standing-rent tenants. These complaints are to the effect that the cropping arrangement on the farms on which they operated in 1936 has been changed by their landlords for the year 1937 and they are unable to operate this year as tenants with these landlords, even though they have made satisfactory settlement of their accounts for the year 1936 with such landlords.

"Every year at this season since 1934, a few letters of this nature have been received by this Division. The increased number of such complaints received so far this year would indicate that there is a tendency on the part of some landlords to change the status of tenants in order to operate their farms in 1937 with wage hands and day laborers. Paragraph g, Section 18 of Southern Region Bulletin 101, provides:

"'If the Secretary, upon the basis of an investigation by the state Committee, finds that any person has for 1937 made any change from the 1936 leasing or cropping arrangement for the farm or has adopted any other device for the purpose of, or which would have the effect of, diverting to such person any payment to which tenants or sharecroppers would be entitled if the 1936 leasing or cropping arrangement were in effect for 1937, the amount of any payment which otherwise would be made to such person may be withheld in whole or in part.'

"It will be in order for you to take the necessary steps to bring to the attention of the landlords and landowners in your State the provisions quoted above and to advise the various County Agents and County Committees that they will be expected to follow the foregoing quoted paragraph in each instance where the 1937 worksheet shows that there has been a change of status of the tenants on the farm. County Committees should make definite recommendations to the State Committees in instances where the above provision has been violated.

"By giving this provision the proper publicity at this time, it will no doubt serve to reduce the number of such cases for the year 1937 in your State.

"Very truly yours,
"C. A. COBB,
"Director, Southern Division."

The above letter is the first admission on the part of the Department of Agriculture officials that there have been wholesale violations of the crop control measures, and marks a decided change from the former attitude held by Cobb.

The Southern Tenant Farmers' Union by its investigations and constant criticism of the various crop control schemes in the South is due credit for at last forcing the Department to recognize its inadequacies as regards sharecroppers and tenants on the cotton plantations.

American Cotton Losing Out

Foreign countries are increasing their use of cotton, but they are continuing to use less and less of American cotton. They used during the past year about four million bales more than was their average prior to the depression, but the American exports of cotton to them were about three million bales less. In 1928 total foreign cotton produced outside of America was less than twelve million bales. During the past year it had grown to be seventeen million bales. The cotton farmer in America has not felt the effects of this critical situation since the United States government pegged the price after having lifted it above five and six cents, but a dangerous situation looms for the future.

It is made more dangerous by the general attitude of American industrialists toward foreign trade. They want to sell to the foreigners, but they are unwilling to buy from foreigners. It is impossible. It may be done under war conditions for a little while, or for a few years; but foreigners cannot buy from Americans except on an exchange basis. As soon as the foreign countries discovered the attitude of America forty of them went away from the conference table and declared they would do as the United States was trying to do; they would build up high tariff walls and cease to buy from outside countries. General starvation and bread lines resulted there and here.

Propaganda is being sent out to newspapers in the United States seeking to still further prejudice Americans against the buying of foreign goods. It is stated by some who have studied the question that the average purchase from foreigners last year amounted to one cent for each American each day.

Even with the ill-feeling against America because of her narrow trade policies all of the countries who prefer other goods, and who are trying to pass up America to get even with her have bought more goods from the United States than they sold to the United States. China is the single exception. Japan is today the American cotton farmer's best foreign customer; and that is because Japan has been able to pay American high tariffs on imports and sell her goods in America in sufficient quantities to pay for the American cotton she wants. In the meantime Japan has been looking in other directions for her cotton. She has been subsidizing cotton growing in other parts of the world, so if America continues to try to high-hat other nations Japan's manufacturing industry will not suffer.

While all of us like to brag about the high standards of living among the American workmen as compared with the standards among workmen in other countries, we cannot forget that when foreigners quit buying from us a great many of our factories and mills close down, having nothing to do.

Nor can we fail to see that the foreigners have always quit buying from us after we had for a time refused to buy from them. This may not always be in a spirit of revenge. It is an economic law that cannot be changed under our present system of world finance.

If the foreign cotton markets are to dwindle as they have been dwindling since the World War, the cotton farmer will be forced into some other kind of farming, and to reduce his cotton production as rapidly as possible. Livestock is the basis for diversified farming, and diversified farming gives best promise in the Southeast. Georgia is unsurpassed in its natural endowments, but she cannot afford to perish for lack of cotton markets.

Agriculture - 1937
& Condition of

General.

COTTON:

South Seethes With Policies To Cure Tenant Evils

Pond

By LEV FLOURNOY
Scripps-Howard Staff Correspondent

The whole South realizes the two-old threat to cotton—the raids on the world market and what they mean and the condition of cotton's paupers who cannot longer continue as they are and what neglect of them might bring.

Half the South seethes with plans and policies.

2-25-37

The other half says "let it alone."

That, while Rome burns, there should be any considerable number of people who say "let it alone" is not surprising. Nor does it indicate any stubborn standpatism on their part or any failure to appreciate the magnitude of the problem.

Reproduction

As a matter of fact it is the magnitude of the problem that compels them to the "hands off" view. The magnitude of the problem breeds caution and caution is responsible for the criticism so often levelled against the South—that it "resists investigation and resents study of cotton problems." Rather than resentment and resistance, there is fear.

PASSIVE POLICIES PREFERRED BY SOME

What they fear is history repeating itself, costly mistakes, pure theory thrown against fact, political maneuvering and graft, the sudden upsetting of values of land and crops and men, the tragedy of revolutionary mistake.

They prefer natural evolution and and its consequences, however bad they may be, to legalized revolution and the risk of chaos. They know that sweeping reform of a system 300 years old and so firmly entrenched that it enters into every consideration in the lives of every one of 20,000,000 people who live in the South means that the reformer, however able he may be, is on dangerous ground.

That portion of Southern leadership which seeks reform realizes that it treads dangerous ground.

But they prefer an active policy to a passive one. They prefer to take the chance.

"It would have an effect that would be profound," says C. T. Carpenter, referring to a new Federal land ownership policy. "It opens the way for the birth of a new democracy and patriotism in our midst."

Mr. Carpenter's words sound fine, even to the conservative. Then he says he would open small government-owned farms to every cropper who is willing to undertake to farm on an independent basis—regardless of his capacity.

And when he says that, even those liberal reformers who stand with him on everything else desert him. "I am willing," says David Cohn, Greenville, Miss., economist and author, "to be taxed to see a worthy sharecropper get a chance, but I am not willing to be taxed to see an idler, foredoomed to failure, get a chance equal to his."

But Mr. Carpenter bitterly inquires:

"I deny the general shiftlessness of the cropper. How can you hold a man responsible when he has never had a chance? How can anybody say that these people, given an opportunity, will not take full advantage of it? Who shall judge the character of men and women who have developed what character they have in spite of everything?"

SOME ARE CONFIDENT LOT CAN BE IMPROVED

Impressed by the reformation of the Irish cotter and the fine agricultural system that came out of the reclamation of the Swedish serf, Mr. Carpenter thinks the sharecropper of the South, black or white, can do as well or better.

The cropper, they argue, is different from them all. Nothing like him has ever been or could have ever been in any other land.

Most of the plans have to do with a new land policy.

The issuance of farms to every sharecropper who wants them and can qualify before a competent board as to past performance, intelligence, industry and character is [illegible]sis of most proposals. They [illegible]t sell him his plot out-[illegible]e would have no opportunity to mortgage it. If he failed [illegible]ly and proved unworthy he could be moved. In time, if he proved thrifty, he could get title to the land.

Even as they speak, consideration of the new Rust picker and what it might bring forces them to add a clause providing that these rehabilitation farms must be contiguous.

Even without the new picker there are mechanical considerations that would make such farms, isolated and remote, powerless competitors of the big plantations.

Airplane dusting, most necessary in the destruction of the weevil, is a device the isolated small farm cannot afford. The nearby electrical gin, the advantage of a merchandise system, good roads are others.

So the planners forecast a salvation of the South square mile by square mile. A taking over by the Government of large places now held by insurance companies and morgtage companies and banks which do not want them is recommended. Parcelling them out to worthwhile tenants, institution of community features, such as airplane dusting, ginning, mechanical picking, if it becomes practical, and a central merchandising system, as well as close expert Government supervision and advice is recommended.

SOME WILL REMAIN SHARECROPPERS ALWAYS

For the army of croppers who couldn't pass the test before board, for those who would not even undertake a step towards independence, the obvious fate would be to continue as sharecroppers.

For in a South made up of small farms, the big plantation ultimately would have to depend on the worst of the croppers and tenants, and its own safety and theirs through the inefficency of its man-power would be threatened.

Edward Meeman, of The Memphis Press-Scimitar, envisions a Government supervised colony of farms, a circle of small farms, if you please, with a contiguous area devoted to cotton, and farmed co-operatively so that all the mechanized improvements of cotton culture might be made accessible. The plan, to which many adhere, also provides for diversion of part of this cotton acreage from year to year as the market dictates, to other crops. On the remaining portion of his land the tenant, closely supervised, could raise the foods and feeds and stock and poultry necessary to a self-supporting home farm.

The Resettlement Administration in Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi can speak from experience. Already it has found homes for 11,000 families in the three states, and while not enough time has elapsed to indicate whether these resettlement areas will be successful, the start has been encouraging.

While the students of cotton attack the cropper problem and plan for the large problem of cotton, special pleaders are busy and add to the confusion.

There are those persons honestly enough committed to education as a panacea. They see in the 2,000,000 adults a generation wholly lost. In the 8,000,000 children they see the beginnings of a future American India in the South unless something is done about it. They would educate them, and they feel that would mean everything.

The "let it alone" men see a possible financial debacle and a tariff tangle and an international complication and a race question.

The compound is too great for them. And they prefer to wait.

* * *

So while the social workers ponder and make plans, educators set up a lusty cry. While the Government makes surveys, the politicians make speeches. Planters worry and sharecroppers wait. The world must have cotton. The Negro must have pork. The white South demands social and political bulwarks . . . and so, the trace chains jingle, far off you hear the rattle of a wagon on a dry and dusty road, the fog rolls up from the hollows as the descendants of John Rolfe's "naygurs" haw softly to their mules and prepare for another day of paying for the nation's fur coats and automobile tires and tea at the Ritz.

(THE END)

Realizing Problem Is One Thing; Solution Is Another

Son of a sharecropper, who was forced on relief, this healthy, smiling boy is one Government prediction of what can be done for the future generation. His family was rehabilitated at the Dyess Colony, Ark., Government project, where nearly 500 families are being re-established, with the prospect of eventually owning their own farms.

Son of a sharecropper. . . can he be rescued from the shiftless, wandering, unproductive life that his father and grandfather knew? A different future for the tenant children of today is one of the immediate concerns of tenancy and resettlement developments now under way.

FARM TENANCY REPORT

Proposals for both State and Federal action to establish security of the farm home were included in the report of the President's Committee on Farm Tenancy which has been submitted to Congress by the President.

The steady growth of farm tenancy during the last 50 years is but a sign of growing general insecurity among certain groups of farmers, the report points out. In addition to tenants and share-croppers, other farm groups mentioned as needing attention are: farm owners hopelessly in debt; farmers on submarginal land; farm laborers; farmers on holdings of inadequate size; and young farm people unable to obtain farms.

This growing insecurity, the report emphasizes, is due not only to undesirable land policies and systems of tenure, but to general economic maladjustments as well.

Believing that no one method will suffice to solve the problems of farm tenancy and related insecurity, the President's Committee has made ten major recommendations for action. These proposals may be grouped under three basic objectives designed to increase security on the farm by better land tenure and use.

The first purpose recognized in these recommendations is to increase the opportunity for farm ownership. The Committee recommends the establishment of a Farm Security Administration under the United States Department of Agriculture with a Farm Security Corporation affiliated therewith as a legal instrument. This joint agency would be empowered to purchase and improve farms to be sold to farmers who demonstrate their integrity, industry and capacity for ownership. Purchase of these farms would be financed over a 40-year period but farmers may pay out in 20 years if able to do so. No decision was made by the Committee as to the interest rate to be charged on this credit.

The second group of recommendations in the tenancy report are designed to improve conditions of the present systems of farm tenancy. Recognizing that no purchase program can in a short time reach a large proportion of the 2,800,000 tenant farmers in the United States, the Committee stresses the importance of State action to introduce security of tenure into present landlord-tenant relationships. Ten specific suggestions are made for State action toward this end.

Attention is also given to the need for better living and working conditions among farm laborers, the least secure of the agricultural groups. The report strongly urges that the States guarantee and enforce the civil rights of groups of tenants and farm laborers who have organized for the purpose of collective bargaining.

Thirdly, the Committee has suggested several programs to stop the processes whereby both farm owners and tenants are being driven down the agricultural ladder into positions of insecurity and poverty. Additional credit facilities are needed, the report says, to prevent small owners from being deprived of their farms by foreclosure. Both owners and tenants on submarginal land should be helped through an extension of the submarginal land purchase program, to move to better lands. In order to discourage speculation in land, one of the basic evils leading to an excessive farm tenancy, a capital gains tax was recommended that would take a large percentage of the unearned increment received from the sale of land within three years from the day of purchase.

Continuance of the rural rehabilitation program, combining technical agricultural guidance with small loans, was recommended by the Committee in order further to reverse the downward trends among the lower income groups on the farm. Coupled with this program the Committee urged the necessity for better educational and health facilities among rural people.—U. S. D. A. Press Service.

FARM TENANT REMEDIES

European countries have followed three general plans in their attempts to improve their tenancy situation. Some of the countries, such as England for example, have accepted tenancy on privately owned land, and set about to improve the relationships between landlord and tenant by regulatory measures. Other countries, notably Ireland and Denmark, have pursued a policy of aiding tenants in becoming owners through a system of long-time loans from the government at a low rate of interest. Still a third procedure has been the promotion of state tenancy, under which plan the title to the land rests in the government and the tenant pays rent to the state for the use of the land instead of paying rent to a private landlord.

The latter plan is too greatly at variance with present American ideals and principles to merit our consideration. Our policy should probably be developed through a combination of the first two schemes mentioned and should embody the following five objectives:

1. To insure reasonable stability of occupancy among farm tenants.

2. To eliminate excessive land speculation and irresponsible absentee ownership.

3. To promote progress to ownership by farm operators who are competent to assume the responsibilities of an owner-operator.

4. To create conditions of occupancy and land use favorable to soil maintenance and improvement.

5. To stimulate a fuller identification of farm laborers and tenants with community life by reducing the number of migratory farm tenants and laborers, and by encouraging group activity among this class of our population.—Land Planning Committee. National Resources Board.

ENTERING THIRD STAGE

Dr Poe continues to prove his far-seeing wisdom and practical judgment in his advocacies of such agricultural, social and economic reforms in the South as will make for a permanent civilization of independence, of happiness and of prosperity.

In the February issue of his Progressive Farmer is an exceptionally impressive statement from him as touching upon the present-day opportunities that stretch before the South, along with a strong, urgent, convincing appeal that the people of the South take vigorous hold of this chance to catapult themselves into a new era and build for themselves a higher and more permanent type of civilization.

Dr. Poe is convinced that the South is now in the third epoch which it has confronted since Appomattox.

He says:

1. For 35 years from 1865 to 1900, or about one generation, the South was fighting for just two things—to recover the material losses of the war and to establish the supremacy of the white race.

2. Then for 35 years from 1900 to 1935, or a second generation, leaders of Southern progress concentrated on two more things—universal education and universally improved highways.

3. Now in the new 35-year period (1935-1970) on which we have just entered it looks as if we may have two other goals of Southern economic progress —universal home ownership (so far as it is practicable to achieve it) and the conservation of natural resources, especially soils and forests. And it is significant that both these programs—both that for soil conservation and that for home ownership—are getting "full steam ahead" at practically the same time: 1936 saw a new beginning of a national program for soil conservation and 1937 will see the beginning of an effective national program for home ownership.—Charlotte Observer.

Agriculture - 1937

Condition of

Far Losing Ownership Of Land Gradually, Survey Shows

AUBURN, ALA., Jan. 31—(Special)—The precentage of farm land operated under lease in the United States has increased from 31 per cent in 1900, 33 per cent in 1910, and 37 per cent in 1920, to 44 per cent in 1930 and 45 per cent in 1935.

This information is shown graphically by States in a summary of farm tenure recently made available by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics in Washington.

In Alabama, 35 per cent of the farm land was under lease at the turn of the century. The percentage increased to 36 in 1910, 38 in 1920 and 48 in 1930. By 1935, 50 per cent of the farm land was operated by tenants.

The bureau reports that for the entire country "owner-operated farm outnumber tenant farms, and owner-operated farm acreage exceeds tenant-operated farm acreage. But the general trend has been toward tenancy, with a lessening ratio of equity in farm real estate held by farm operators. In brief, farmers are gradually losing ownership of the land."

The graphic summary shows that the proportion of the nation's farms operated by tenants or croppers has increased from 35 per cent in 1900, 37 per cent in 1910 and 38 per cent in 1920, to 42 per cent in 1930 and in 1935.

The proportion of farms operated by tenants who own none of the land they farm ranged in 1935 from 70 per cent in Mississippi to 6 per cent in Massachusetts. In Alabama, 58 per cent of the farms in 1900 was operated by tenants or croppers, 60 per cent in 1910, 58 per cent in 1920, 65 per cent in 1930, and 64 per cent in 1935.

The proportion of farm land under lease to operators in 1935 ranged from 62 per cent in South Dakota to 8 per cent in Maine and Massachusetts.

In 1880, there were only 180 counties in which as many as half the farms were tenant-operated, and practically all these were in the South; but in 1935 such counties totaled 890, and they effectively blanketed the cotton belt and much of the more fertile parts of the corn belt. In all, there were 1,107 counties in 1935 in which half or more of the land in farms was under lease to the operator.

"Farm tenancy tends to increase," says the bureau, "with the commercialization of agriculture. Free land and democratic rural institutions have retarded the segregation of labor from capital in agriculture, as contrasted with industry; but the trend toward such segregation is clear.

"Increasing proportions of the farmers are becoming tenants in the regions where commercial agriculture is dominant, and increasing proportions of the tenants are becoming croppers or wage hands in the South. This trend is profoundly affecting both the present and future welfare of rural people."

The farm-tenure publication, which contains 71 charts, is one of ten graphic summaries covering various phases of American agriculture prepared by the bureau. The summaries represent analyses based on 1930 and 1935 census data.

UP TO TENANTS

Anyone Can Make Enough to Live and Become Independent

Commercial Appeal

To The Commercial Appeal:

The solving of the tenant problem? Much discussion has been brought about by this one big problem—through the press, as well as in the halls of Congress. Yet, are we any nearer the solution?

The writer has had a good deal of experience with tenants—good, bad and indifferent.

It is true that there are many worthy tenants; it is also true that there are many tenants who are shiftless and unworthy. The same is true in any other field of activity.

In regard to the worthy tenant, I wish to say that there's not one, under normal conditions, who can not make and save enough money to get a start in life, if he will fully and intelligently apply his energies, and will economize. Any tenant who does this, for any reasonable time, there's no occasion for him to remain a tenant, for there's opportunities knocking at his front and back door to become a landowner, and he will. For him to do this, the government doesn't have to "cradle" him, for the are landowners in every community who would be glad to sell him land on very easy terms.

To the shiftless tenant, it is my opinion that he will always be "just that," and no amount of "cradling" will help him better his situation. We have numbers and numbers of tenants who will forever remain tenants regardless of the dole or opportunities that may be offered them.

So, the solution of the tenant problem is one in which it is up to each and every tenant to solve for himself. Wherever a tenant may be located, there are opportunities offered him to better his situation. How many take advantage? Look into their gardens—spring, summer, fall and winter, and see for yourself. That alone will answer the question of: "Are they taking advantage of opportunities?" If not, are they capable of taking advantage of greater opportunities? Any that are, will grasp them, and make good, without a lot of "mothering" from the government.

T. W. GRAHAM.

Blue Springs, Miss.

Cotton And A "Creditor Nation"

As few things are more important to the people who read this newspaper than the market for cotton, we think that the following quotations from a letter written to The Commercial Appeal by Mr. Sam G. Loring, secretary of the Southern Cotton Shippers Association, should be reproduced here:

Commercial Appeal

Friday, Jan. 15, 1937, there appeared on the editorial page of The Commercial Appeal an editorial entitled "Cotton Abroad." The impression I got from reading this article was that you do not view with great concern the increased production of cotton outside the United States. The increased production of cotton in every country outside the United States which produces cotton is but part of the cotton situation. The most tragic part of the picture is the fact that the world is consuming the increased production of these outside growths. Why?

For the simple reason that this country is still trying to function under a trade policy which is wholly inadequate for it in its creditor nation status. A fundamental change in the commercial relationship of the United States with the rest of the world came into being after the World War. Almost overnight we changed from a debtor nation to a creditor nation. This change called for a radical readjustment of America's trade policy if foreign markets for our cotton were to be preserved and normally expanded. But the United States failed to effect this necessary readjustment. On the contrary, the Hawley-Smoot Tariff was passed by Congress in 1930, in the face of warnings and anxious protests from no less than 33 separate countries. A protective tariff works in a debtor nation status where it is necessary to export more than is imported, but it was nothing short of economic suicide for Congress to keep raising the tariff until now it is practically double the Underwood Tariff, under which we were operating in 1915.

Unless the south can sell an adequate amount of its annual production of cotton in the markets of the world at a profitable price, its people cannot be prosperous.

Mr. Loring inclosed some statistics of world cotton production and consumption which are in line with his letter. In general, Mr. Loring's position is well taken, and agrees absolutely with the views of The Commercial Appeal as consistently expressed in these columns for generations. But there is such a thing as overstating a good case. There is such a thing as tying a sound case to one of less validity. We do not think that the case for tariff reduction needs to be associated with the thesis that this country must have an import surplus instead of its historic export surplus, as so many believers in the theory that we have become a creditor nation on the British model seem to think. In many respects the evolution of our economy has been radically different from that of Great Britain, and we are not now at a stage similar to that of Britain with respect to credits abroad or with respect to import and export requirements.

While Mr. Loring does not say that he considers a general surplus of imports is necessary to make possible adequate exports of cotton, he practically subscribes to the converse of the proposition that a creditor nation must have an import surplus when he says that "a protective tariff works in a debtor nation status where it is necessary to export more than is imported."

There has been a good deal of exaggeration about our sudden acquisition of the status of a creditor nation, too. As a matter of fact we are a creditor nation of a most dubious sort. Our government loans to other nations are worthless. A large share of our long-term loans to other nations are, or have been, in default. Many of the long-term loans we made after the World War, when Wall Street ballyhoo was loudest about New York having become the new financial center of the world, were bad loans, and part of the proceeds of some of them probably went to pay off European creditors who had been holding the bag before we were substituted at that station of the snipe hunt. London must have its little laugh. Meanwhile let us not forget that in the matter of short-term credits we have been a debtor nation during a large part of the time that has elapsed since the Armistice in 1918.

We think it is wise to keep these qualifications and distinctions in mind. Otherwise we run the danger of confusing the case of the cotton grower and merchant for freer trade with the less meritorious case of the Wall Street money market for a renewal of the foreign lending orgy that contributed so much to the collapse of 1929.

With respect to the assumption that a creditor nation must have an import surplus, an assumption that underlies all the patter of the Wall Street bank circulars on our status as a creditor nation, although the assumption is mere often veiled than avowed, we think the following statement from the National Industrial Conference Board is worth thinking about:

The United States does not have to import more merchandise than it exports, or have an unfavorable trade balance, in order to enable foreigners to pay interest and other charges on the loans made them by this country.

This theory is based chiefly on the fact that the United Kingdom—the other great creditor nation—has for many years had an excess of merchandise imports. This does not mean, however, that the United States also must import more goods than it exports. Comparison of the balance of payments reports of the two countries shows that their international transactions are quite different. Certain of America's invisible imports, in particular, are much heavier than those of the United Kingdom.

Americans in the aggregate, for example, spend more on foreign travel than do citizens of the United Kingdom. The United Kingdom with foreign exchange which helps materially to pay for its excess of merchandise imports. Important items of this nature are the yield from foreign investments and banking services and the income from ocean shipping.

Mr. Loring's statement that "unless the south can sell an adequate amount of its annual production of cotton in the markets of the world at a profitable price, its people cannot be prosperous," is true under our existing domestic and international setup. But that does not mean that it always will be true. To the extent that the income of the American people is increased by greater use of their capacity to produce wealth and by

d has several less financial sabotage of production to
r larger than maintain monopoly prices, the ability of the
he American American home market to consume the
provide the

Other invisible imports of the United States that are much larger than those of the United Kingdom are contributions to foreign missions and charities, immigrant remittances, and dividend payments to foreigners who own American securities.

At the same time, England has several less invisible exports that are far larger than the corresponding items in the American balance of payments. These prov

Agriculture -1937

General

Condition of

Far Losing Ownership Of Land Gradually, Survey Shows

AUBURN, ALA., Jan. 31—(Special)—The precentage of farm land operated under lease in the United States has increased from 31 per cent in 1900, 33 per cent in 1910, and 37 per cent in 1920, to 44 per cent in 1930 and 45 per cent in 1935.

This information is shown graphically by States in a summary of farm tenure recently made available by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics in Washington.

In Alabama, 35 per cent of the farm land was under lease at the turn of the century. The percentage increased to 36 in 1910, 38 in 1920 and 48 in 1930. By 1935, 50 per cent of the farm land was operated by tenants.

The bureau reports that for the entire country "owner-operated farm outnumber tenant farms, and owner-operated farm acreage exceeds tenant-operated farm acreage. But the general trend has been toward tenancy, with a lessening ratio of equity in farm real estate held by farm operators. In brief, farmers are gradually losing ownership of the land."

The graphic summary shows that the proportion of the nation's farms operated by tenants or croppers has increased from 35 per cent in 1900, 37 per cent in 1910 and 38 per cent in 1920, to 42 per cent in 1930 and in 1935.

The proportion of farms operated by tenants who own none of the land they farm ranged in 1935 from 70 per cent in Mississippi to 6 per cent in Massachusetts. In Alabama, 58 per cent of the farms in 1900 was operated by tenants or croppers, 60 per cent in 1910, 58 per cent in 1920, 65 per cent in 1930, and 64 per cent in 1935.

The proportion of farm land under lease to operators in 1935 ranged from 62 per cent in South Dakota to 8 per cent in Maine and Massachusetts.

In 1880, there were only 180 counties in which as many as half the farms were tenant-operated, and practically all these were in the South; but in 1935 such counties totaled 890, and they effectively blanketed the cotton belt and much of the more fertile parts of the corn belt. In all, there were 1,107 counties in 1935 in which half or more of the land in farms was under lease to the operator.

"Farm tenancy tends to increase," says the bureau, "with the commercialization of agriculture. Free land and democratic rural institutions have retarded the segregation of labor from capital in agriculture, as contrasted with industry; but the trend toward such segregation is clear.

"Increasing proportions of the farmers are becoming tenants in the regions where commercial agriculture is dominant, and increasing proportions of the tenants are becoming croppers or wage hands in the South. This trend is profoundly affecting both the present and future welfare of rural people."

The farm-tenure publication, which contains 71 charts, is one of ten graphic summaries covering various phases of American agriculture prepared by the bureau. The summaries represent analyses based on 1930 and 1935 census data.

UP TO TENANTS

Anyone Can Make Enough to Live and Become Independent

To The Commercial Appeal:

The solving of the tenant problem? Much discussion has been brought about by this one big problem—through the press, as well as in the halls of Congress. Yet, are we any nearer the solution?

The writer has had a good deal of experience with tenants—good, bad and indifferent.

It is true that there are many worthy tenants; it is also true that there are many tenants who are shiftless and unworthy. The same is true in any other field of activity.

In regard to the worthy tenant, I wish to say that there's not one, under normal conditions, who can not make and save enough money to get a start in life, if he will fully and intelligently apply his energies, and will economize. Any tenant who does this, for any reasonable time, there's no occasion for him to remain a tenant, for there's opportunities knocking at his front and back door to become a landowner, and he will. For him to do this, the government doesn't have to "cradle" him, for the are landowners in every community who would be glad to sell him land on very easy terms.

To the shiftless tenant, it is my opinion that he will always be "just that," and no amount of "cradling" will help him better his situation. We have numbers and numbers of tenants who will forever remain tenants regardless of the dole or opportunities that may be offered them.

So, the solution of the tenant problem is one in which it is up to each and every tenant to solve for himself. Wherever a tenant may be located, there are opportunities offered him to better his situation. How many take advantage? Look into their gardens—spring, summer, fall and winter, and see for yourself. That alone will answer the question of: "Are they taking advantage of opportunities?" If not, are they capable of taking advantage of greater opportunities? Any that are, will grasp them, and make good, without a lot of "mothering" from the government.

T. W. GRAHAM.

Blue Springs, Miss.

Cotton And A "Creditor Nation"

As few things are more important to the people who read this newspaper than the market for cotton, we think that the following quotations from a letter written to The Commercial Appeal by Mr. Sam G. Loring, secretary of the Southern Cotton Shippers Association, should be reproduced here:

Friday, Jan. 15, 1937, there appeared on the editorial page of The Commercial Appeal an editorial entitled "Cotton Abroad." The impression I got from reading this article was that you do not view with great concern the increased production of cotton outside the United States. The increased production of cotton in every country outside the United States which produces cotton is but part of the cotton situation. The most tragic part of the picture is the fact that the world is consuming the increased production of these outside growths. Why?

For the simple reason that this country is still trying to function under a trade policy which is wholly inadequate for it in its creditor nation status. A fundamental change in the commercial relationship of the United States with the rest of the world came into being after the World War. Almost overnight we changed from a debtor nation to a creditor nation. This change called for a radical readjustment of America's trade policy if foreign markets for our cotton were to be preserved and normally expanded. But the United States failed to effect this necessary readjustment. On the contrary, the Hawley-Smoot Tariff was passed by Congress in 1930, in the face of warnings and anxious protests from no less than 33 separate countries. A protective tariff works in a debtor nation status where it is necessary to export more than is imported, but it was nothing short of economic suicide for Congress to keep raising the tariff until now it is practically double the Underwood Tariff, under which we were operating in 1915.

Unless the south can sell an adequate amount of its annual production of cotton in the markets of the world at a profitable price, its people cannot be prosperous.

Mr. Loring inclosed some statistics of world cotton production and consumption which are in line with his letter. In general, Mr. Loring's position is well taken, and agrees absolutely with the views of The Commercial Appeal as consistently expressed in these columns for generations. But there is such a thing as overstating a good case. There is such a thing as tying a sound case to one of less validity. We do not think that the case for tariff reduction needs to be associated with the thesis that this country must have an import surplus instead of its historic export surplus, as so many believers in the theory that we have become a creditor nation on the British model seem to think. In many respects the evolution of our economy has been radically different from that of Great Britain, and we are not now at a stage similar to that of Britain with respect to credits abroad or with respect to import and export requirements.

While Mr. Loring does not say that he considers a general surplus of imports is necessary to make possible adequate exports of cotton, he practically subscribes to the converse of the proposition that a creditor nation must have an import surplus when he says that "a protective tariff works in a debtor nation status where it is necessary to export more than is imported."

There has been a good deal of exaggeration about our sudden acquisition of the status of a creditor nation, too. As a matter of fact we are a creditor nation of a most dubious sort. Our government loans to other nations are worthless. A large share of our long-term loans to other nations are, or have been, in default. Many of the long-term loans we made after the World War, when Wall Street ballyhoo was loudest about New York having become the new financial center of the world, were bad loans, and part of the proceeds of some of them probably went to pay off European creditors who had been holding the bag before we were substituted at that station of the snipe hunt. London must have its little laugh. Meanwhile let us not forget that in the matter of short-term credits we have been a debtor nation during a large part of the time that has elapsed since the Armistice in 1918.

We think it is wise to keep these qualifications and distinctions in mind. Otherwise we run the danger of confusing the case of the cotton grower and merchant for freer trade with the less meritorious case of the Wall Street money market for a renewal of the foreign lending orgy that contributed so much to the collapse of 1929.

With respect to the assumption that a creditor nation must have an import surplus, an assumption that underlies all the patter of the Wall Street bank circulars on our status as a creditor nation, although the assumption is mere often veiled than avowed, we think the following statement from the National Industrial Conference Board is worth thinking about:

The United States does not have to import more merchandise than it exports, or have an unfavorable trade balance, in order to enable foreigners to pay interest and other charges on the loans made by this country.

This theory is based chiefly on the fact that the United Kingdom — the other great creditor nation — has for many years had an excess of merchandise imports. This does not mean, however, that the United States also must import more goods than it exports. Comparison of the balance of payments reports of the two countries shows that their international transactions are quite different. Certain of America's invisible imports, in particular, are much heavier than those of the United Kingdom. Americans in the aggregate, for example, spend more on foreign travel than do citizens of the United Kingdom. The goods purchased abroad by American tourists have the same effect on our balance of payments as do goods imported and paid for here. They provide foreigners with dollars with which they can purchase American exports, pay interest on American loans, or meet other payments due Americans.

Other invisible imports of the United States that are much larger than those of the United Kingdom are contributions to foreign missions and charities, immigrant remittances, and dividend payments to foreigners who own American securities.

At the same time, England has several less invisible exports that are far larger than the corresponding items in the American A balance of payments. These provide the United Kingdom with foreign exchange which helps materially to pay for its excess of merchandise imports. Important items of this nature are the yield from foreign investments and banking services and the income from ocean shipping.

Mr. Loring's statement that "unless the south can sell an adequate amount of its annual production of cotton in the markets of the world at a profitable price, its people cannot be prosperous," is true under our existing domestic and international setup. But that does not mean that it always will be true. To the extent that the income of the American people is increased by greater use of their capacity to produce wealth and by less financial sabotage of production to maintain monopoly prices, the ability of the American home market to consume the

south's cotton will increase. By the same token the relative importance of cotton in the economic structure of the south will decline in proportion to the growing financial independence of the cotton grower. Held to the one-crop system largely because of debt, he will likely evolve into a general purpose agriculturist in the measure that his income grows and his fixed obligations are lightened.

PRESIDENT OFFERS PLAN TO CUT 'EVILS' OF FARM TENANCY

Message With Report of His Committee Says Many Americans Are on 'Treadmill'

FAVORS A MODEST START

Key of Program Is Aid to Ownership in Furtherance of Fading National 'Dream'

The text of the President's message appears on Page 4.

By FELIX BELAIR JR.

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 16.—President Roosevelt told Congress today that fewer than half of the farmers of the country owned the farms they operated, that about 40,000 farmers were being added each year to this tenant class, and that prompt action was necessary to correct the "evils from which this large section suffers."

His statements were in a message transmitting the report of his special committee on farm tenancy. In the message he said:

"The American dream of the family size farm, owned by the family which operates it, has become more and more remote. The agricultural ladder, on which an energetic young man might ascend from hired man to tenant to independent owner, is no longer serving its purpose."

He declared that on "some of our best farm lands seven of every ten farmers are tenants" and that the "agricultural ladder," for many American citizens, "has become a treadmill."

"When fully half the total farm population of the United States no longer can feel secure, when millions of our people have lost their roots in the soil," he added, "action to provide for their security is imperative, and will be generally approved."

He asserted that "most Americans believe that our form of government does not prohibit action on behalf of those who need help."

Proposes Modest Start

He advocated direct Federal action in dealing with the problem of tenancy, but made it clear that only modest beginnings would be made; that the cooperation of local and State government agencies would be sought, and that landlords as well as tenants were expected to play a part.

The committee report recommended a long-range Federal-State program to assist tenants in their climb toward ownership, to help present owners to avoid loss of their farmsteads, to make loans for the rehabilitation of tenants not ready for ownership and to make possible the retirement of additional submarginal land, use of which was called a contributing factor to the prevalence of tenancy.

The committee also recommended that tenants be permitted to contract with the government for the purchase of farmsteads and to amortize over a forty-year period, but with the privilege of paying out in twenty years.

The report offered no suggestion on what the interest rate should be.

Indicative of an intention to seek modifications of farm tenancy legislation pending in the Senate and House, President Roosevelt said in his message:

"It will be wise to start the permanent program on a scale commensurate with our resources and experience, with the purpose of later expanding the program to a scale commensurate with the magnitude ofthe problem as rapidly as our experience and resources will permit."

Jones Praises Message

Praising the President's message, Chairman Jones of the House Agriculture Committee said he would reconvene his group Thursday to hear proponents of the plan outlined in the report. He insisted, however, that the $500,000,000 Jones-Bankhead bill now being considered on both sides of the Capitol would be made the "basis" for new legislation.

The committee's report was accompanied by minority expressions from four of the forty-one members.

Speaking for the Southern Tenant Farmers Union, W. L. Blackstone objected to having the agency for carrying out the program in the Department of Agriculture.

"Our experience has been such that we cannot believe the Department of Agriculture will be able in any near future to remove itself from domination by the rich and large land-owning class of farmers and their political pressure lobbies," Mr. Blackstone declared.

"The county agricultural agent, often paid in part by Chambers of Commerce of the Farm Bureau Federation, is a symbol of such domination. We recall vividly our inability in the days of the AAA to get adequate redress of our grievances as to the disposition of benefit payments and as to dispossessing us from our slight foothold on the land in violation of the cotton contract.

Urges Independent Agency

"Ample evidence of these violations was in the hands of the AAA. Very little was done about it, to say nothing of any genuine attack on the problems of agricultural labor. We strongly urge that the Farm Security Administration and its operating corporation be established as an independent Federal agency and that tenants, sharecroppers and farm workers be given representation on the central board of control."

Mr. Blackstone proposed further that the Wagner Labor Relations Act and the Social Security Act be amended to cover agricultural labor.

He denied that the "small homestead philosophy" advanced in the report was a solution for the majority of Southern agricultural workers.

Edward A. O'Neal, president of the American Farm Bureau Federation, objected in a minority statement to the "security of tenure" provision in the report under which purchasing tenants would be unable to pay off their indebtedness until after twenty years.

Henry C. Taylor, director of the Farm Foundation and a member of the committee, opposed the program on any except "an experimental basis." He said the proposals of the majority might "do more harm than good" by making acquisition of farmsteads "too easy" and by increasing competition in agriculture.

Denmark And Tenancy

The growth of tenancy in this country during the last few decades has rightly alarmed the American people. While it began to be serious during the last quarter of the last century, it has become progressively worse since 1900. The latest estimates show that 42.1 per cent of the country's farms are operated by tenants.

The contrast to the little farming country of Denmark is striking. In 1850 nearly half the farms in Denmark were run by tenants. Today less than seven per cent of Denmark's farms are tenant operated. Landlordism and absentee ownership have been abolished.

But this is not all. The Danish Government has deliberately fostered the development of small farms, and has assisted competent workmen to acquire land and to build their homes upon it. Denmark has realized that land ownership, especially the widest possible distribution of ownership, is not only essential to social stability, but is also the necessary base of a soundly democratic society.

* * * *

The compact nature of Denmark, with its small and racially homogeneous population, is such that a workable comparison with the United States cannot be made. But it is interesting to examine the methods which the Danish Government has used to achieve the desired ends.

Beginning in 1889, the Government passed a series of laws enabling farm laborers to acquire land. This land was obtained partly from areas already in the possession of the Government and partly through acquisition of large estates by the Government and their redistribution in small parcels. It was subsequently provided that those who acquired the land could obtain loans not only to cover the purchase of the land, but also to pay for the construction of necessary farm buildings.

A minimum size of the small holdings was established based on the estimated acreage needed to support a family.

The Danish laws were not, however, too rigid. The Government did not stop with the mere parceling of lands. It also provided against the concentration of farms into larger units. In other words, the Government recognized that the problem of land ownership is two-fold: (1) to increase the number of small holdings, and (2) to prevent the reaccumulation of land in large holdings.

The financing of the Danish land distribution scheme has been largely in the hands of the Government. To obtain a Government loan the applicant must be in possession of means of his own sufficient to cover the cost of livestock and to provide the necessary margin of working capital. It is interesting to note that, to encourage thrift, the act states that applicants who can prove that they have saved the necessary sum out of their own wages have preference in obtaining Government loans.

While it is obvious that the United States cannot at present embark on any such policy, the underlying philosophy that prompted the Danish system deserves careful attention. In America a spirit of defeatism in the face of the menace of size has led to a tacit acceptance of the contention that the trend toward concentration of wealth and power in a few hands is irresistible. The growth of the great business corporations and the increase of tenancy are presented as proof of this contention. Nothing, the apostles of economic defeatism insist, can be done to check the trend toward concentration.

* * * *

To reverse the process and distribute the ownership of property is obviously complicated. It is by no means sure, however, that methods cannot be found within the present framework of our Constitution whereby the desired results can be attained. It is even conceivable that the taxing power can be so used as to put a premium on the distribution of ownership.

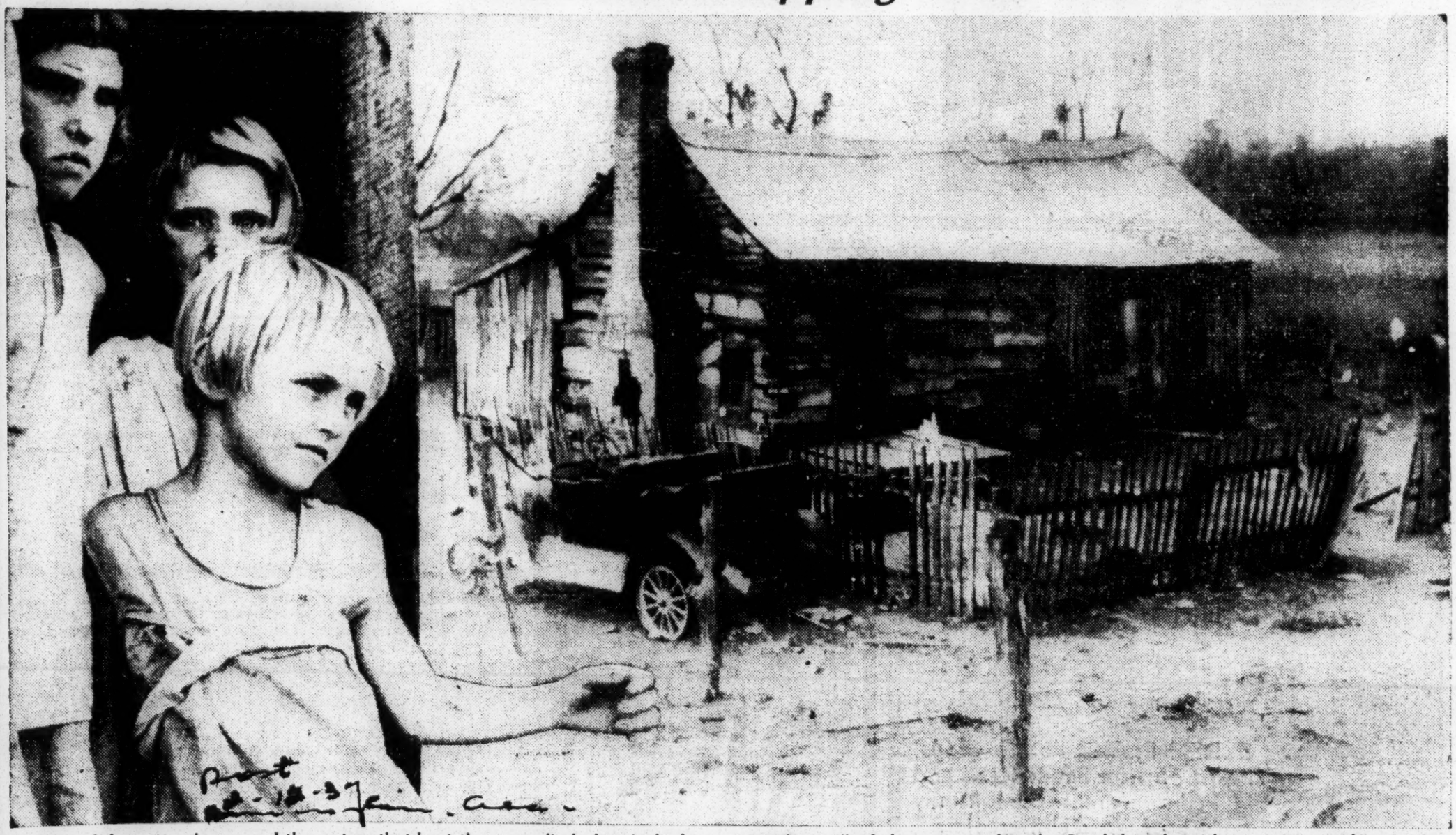
The State of Wisconsin already has in force a law which may help show the way to an ultimate solution of the problem of land ownership. This law provides for the zoning of rural areas. While this does not directly affect the size of land holdings, it deals with the problem of land use. Certain areas are definitely set aside as recreational. Others are restricted to forestry. Farming may be undertaken only in prescribed districts where the Government survey shows that the land is such as to make farming a potentially profitable occupation.

From this it is but a step to the encouragement of small land owners operating their own independent farms.—Nicholas Roosevelt in The New York Herald Tribune.

Agriculture - 1937
Condition of.

General.

COTTON: *Fields Bloomed, The South Prospered— And Sharecropping Grew Like A Cancer*



Fruit of the cotton looms and the system that kept them supplied, the pinched faces and hollow eyes of three children, on Government relief, and the shambling cabin, tell of the poverty that the South bought with its cotton, making it ripe, when the depression struck, for organization of the Southern Tenant Farmers Union.

ttention Of Cotton States Is Called To Deplorable Living Conditions In Its Tenant Farmer Class—Conditions That Began Back In Reconstruction Days

This is the second of a series of articles by Lev Flournoy, Scripps-Howard staff writer and native of Arkansas, discussing cotton and its problems. Today Mr. Flournoy tells about growth of a movement to better conditions among sharecroppers.

How An Idea Was Born—Southern Sharecroppers Form Their Own Union To Better Their Lot In Life; And The News Makes Nation's Front Pages

By Lev Flournoy
Scripps-Howard Staff Correspondent

H. L. Mitchell, the pants presser, and Clay East, the filling station man, who founded the sharecroppers' union, phrased their demand for a tenant Magna Charta as they drove over rutty Arkansas sideroads in a sputtering car.

In the Summer monlight they would drive and plan. Then they would return to the hot breath of Mitchell's pressing shop at Tyronza and set down what they had discussed.

They wrote a constitution and a declaration of principles in that dingy room whose paper had curled from the walls with the heat of the gas jets. A six-inch fan did little good. They had to drive until it was cool enough to go inside and write.

What they wrote was a demand that was mild enough. It merely proclaimed the right to organize. It asked $1 a day for farm labor against the prevailing 35 and 50

cents. It asked that there be an end to robbery of the tenant by the landlord. It complained of high interest and unjustified charges. It asserted that certain indignities had occurred here and there, and cited them as instances of practices which, it demanded, must cease.

The effect of their action was to throw enough of the substance of dissent into the stream of history to start eddies and cross currents.

* * *

CONDITIONS CALLED TO SOUTH'S ATTENTION

They called the attention of the South to a condition that can't endure. And their declarations and the war that followed called the attention of the nation itself to the large problem of cotton as well as to the human problem.

The formation of the croppers' union was an event which, whatever its ultimate importance, will not lack for minute detail in some future telling.

The unionists and the newspapers and the deputies and the planters have a rather complete record of everything that happened, though the various records contradict each other.

At any rate, there was the meeting at Sunnyside Schoolhouse, and the constitution and declaration were adopted.

For a moment the meeting came near foundering on the question of separate unions for the white man and the black man, and a black man held them together. He said:

"We black folks can't organize without you, and you white folks can't organize without us. Ain't God the Father?"

So Jim Crow regulations vanished from the union—the only organization of any sort in Southern history to rule the practice out.

* * *

The Mitchell and East union was not the first sharecropper union. Like the mechanical cotton picker, present example of which is the 751st device patented since the Civil War, a protesting cropper unit is nothing new.

* * *

UNION IDEA MAKES THE FRONT PAGES

The present union, however, is the union that was organized at a time when the nation had a new idea about the lot of the common man. It is the union organized when a Government was lavish with funds of which the sharecroppers got little. It is the union that was organized after five years of the most devastating depression the nation ever knew. That is the reason why it stuck and why it has gotten as far as it has. The hour was right and Mitchell, at least, had a Napoleonic awareness of the hour.

So the union was formed, and beatings and strife began. Communists and Socialists and student meddlers and social workers, many of them sincere, more of them seeking adventure and excitement, preaching their own particular brand of salvation, moved in and beclouded the issue.

But the thing got on the front pages all over the land, not because it was important, but because it was exciting, and so America learned about the sharecropper, who had existed under that name and system for 71 years, and before that under other names and the same traditional cotton system and economy for another 230 years.

And what is a sharecropper?

Broadly, he is any man or woman who will undertake to produce cotton on 20 to 80 acres of land which belongs to someone else on a gross receipt basis of from $250 to $500 per year out of which must come the support of himself and his family, regardless of its size or need.

Actually, if a Negro, he is the lineal descendant of the 20 "nay-gurs" brought to Jamestown, one to Jesus, or of those who followed them.

If a white man, he is more than likely the descendant of those Virginians who could not find their way into the first flight of ownership when cotton culture and the plantation began. Or he may be the grandson of a once powerful baron, ruined by the Civil War, or he may be a mountain man, who came down from the hills to the lowlands and bogged in the social and economic stratum that is sharecropping, or he may be one of those sifted down from a better estate in any of the ways it can happen through generations.

And how does it work?

The sharecropper comes to the planter with empty hands. He is given his cabin and an allotment of acres rent-free for 12 months. He is supplied with seed, tools and work stock and he gets a line of credit at the plantation store. In the Spring he plants cotton, sometimes corn and a garden. Most of the acreage is cotton. In the Fall the cotton, if the crop didn't go to pieces in the Summer, is sold. The cropper gets half of the cotton proceeds, on some plantations half, and others all, of the proceeds from the sale of the seed.

If he is an average cropper, he has produced about seven and a half bales of cotton. On the basis of this year's price for cotton and for seed, each bale with the 1100 pounds of seed that goes with it, brings a total of about $67.50. Seven and a half bales thus produce $506.25 gross. The cropper's half thus is $253,. but he has to pay his share of the gin charge, the other charges necessary to handling the cotton, his account at the store, and a 10 per cent overall carrying charge. These deductions, varying under different conditions and in different localities, reduce his net balance to about $200. If he charges more than $5 per week at the store in a year for all purposes—food, clothing, medicine, etc., he will be in debt.

* * *

VERY FEW ABLE TO MAKE A PROFIT

The figures above will do as well as any. More bales and a better price would increase them. A bad crop and a low price would lower them.

Croppers sometimes finish with a cash profit of from $5 to $100. Net cash earnings of from $500 to $1300 in banner years are recorded. Some croppers on some plantations have made a little every year. Others have never been out of debt.

The survey of the University of North Carolina, made in a bad year—1932-33—showed that 61.7 per cent of the croppers broke even, that 25 per cent went in the hole, that 9.4 per cent made money.

* * *

Thus, the men and their women and children for whom the sharecropper union speaks. The black ones have had little enough either in the history of their forefathers or in their own lives.

Black and white, the system started them in 1619. One hundred and fifty years later, when the gin was invented and the power loom came into being, big production definitely fixed their status. Seventy years later the Civil War set the Negroes free, but it did not free either slave or poor white from the system. Nor did it free the landowner, equally enchained.

The actual working arrangement of the cropper goes back, therefore, only to 1865—the Spring in which Lee surrendered.

After four years of war and the smelling of burning bales in compresses and warehouses, in a day when drab desperation clouded for the actors the drama of which they were a part, cotton began again.

GRASS GREW WHERE ONCE WAS COTTON

The man whom the Negroes once called Marse Tom came back along the red clay road. Mist from the hollows back where the bayou moves toward the Mississippi floated in the early morning light.

The man rode in. And stood in his stirrups and swept the thing with his eyes. A riot of yellow weeds in a star-shaped flower bed. Three naked trees where once there had been an orchard. A red half-acre of earth where implements had been piled and rusted into the ground.

The skeleton of a mule. A squadron of vultures spiraling higher because of a man and a horse that were alive.

In the town also are the Negroes, idle and in mischief, arrogantly picking out the sections of their former masters' plantations which they would take over, making fantastic demands on the provost marshal for foods and supplies cruelly promised them by men who sought to inflame them.

The tragic era had begun. It was to last 12 years. Lincoln was dead. Johnson, himself an offshoot from the long procession of underprivileged whites, was being crucified because he stood for mercy for the conquered.

The Negroes soon found out the truth. One by one they came back from the illusion of freedom. There was no place for them to go but to the plantations whence they came.

They found the man who had been Marse Tom and others like him. The two, one with broad acres and the other with broad shoulders, made a compact. Sharecropping began. About it, white man and black man, the good earth, high hopes, a fine determination, there was something splendidly inspiring. But it was a plan that didn't work, a bargain which, but for a few brief, self-defensive years, was never kept.

The poor whites, augmented by war-ruined others, soon also became sharecroppers. The land once more blossomed, but the economic system of cotton hadn't been changed. The thing that had happened was that a war had been fought and many men had died.

Meanwhile, a shortage of cotton through the war years had left the world stripped of the staple. Cotton was in growing demand. Prices were higher. Money was needed. The Southerners planted more cotton, always more cotton. It was the only thing they could grow that would bring them money they so greatly needed.

In his pressing shop in Tyronza, Ark., H. L. Mitchell, now secretary of the Southern Tenant Farmers' Union, began organization of the sharecroppers, with results that aroused the nation and the South itself to the plight of its millions of tenant farmers.

Agriculture — 1937
Condition of.

General.

THE SOUTH TODAY

What About Farm Tenancy Now?

By GOULD BEECH

(Copyright, 1937, by Southern Newspaper Syndicate)

Editor's Note—Chester T. Crowell started his newspaper career on the San Antonio (Texas) Express. Subsequently he was managing editor of the Mexico City Mexican Herald and the Austin Statesman, and staff correspondent of the Dallas News. Mr. Crowell was, from 1935-1937, special assistant to the secretary of the treasury, and is considered an authority on social and economic matters. He has won the O. Henry memorial award for a short story, is just completing a novel, and his articles have appeared in several national magazines. Mr. Crowell is now living in Dallas, where he is engaged in a period of intensive free-lance writing.

CHESTER T. CROWELL

Returning home after an absence of 20 years, I am tremendously impressed with the growth of the cities in Texas and other Southern states, and am puzzled by the fact that they do not seem to realize how rich and strong they have grown. I find entirely too much of the sort of optimism that is normal to thriving, semi-urbanized communities. It is as though Hercules should say, boastingly, "Am I not a fine, strong boy? Let me show you the muscle in my arm!" The logical comment would be: "Sir, you are not a fine strong boy, nor any other kind of a boy. You are a full-grown man, and a giant."

I venture to make this comment because I feel that a keener realization of power is essential to the next and obvious steps on the path of progress. And, in fairness to Texas and the rest of the South, I wish to add, without further delay, that I think my impression would be the same if I had returned to any other part of the United States. A strange and illogical willingness to accept the role of hinterland or provinces in relation to New York city afflicts the entire nation. I see it most clearly in Texas, my own state, simply because I know Texas best.

Texas Needs Ability

Let me give you a specific example of what I have in mind. Among my friends in New York City is a former Texan employed by a large bank at a salary of $8,000 a year. In Texas, at the time he was lured away, his salary was $5,000. His associates did not underestimate his ability, but $5,000 seemed to them a very good salary even for a man so outstanding that New York reached for him. He is not doing any more work or more important work there than he did in Texas. On the contrary, his field is narrowed and specialized. In Texas he was an all-around banker. Texas was his background. I should say that he would be worth more here than anywhere else on earth. Texas needed that man and therefore could ill-afford to lose him. Moreover, the bank he left could have afforded to pay him more. Tradition was all that stood in the way of an increase. They just didn't think of it. His associates are very proud of him because he went to New York City. "Home town boy makes good. One of our own that we trained is a big shot now in the financial capital of the world." That expresses their attitude. It is a kind and fraternal and generous attitude, but it completely overlooks the fact that they still need him. And they lost him for no good reason.

In Houston the Texas League baseball team is a sort of prep school for the St. Louis Cardinals of the National League. No one seems to think that that situation is absurd. But look at the skyline of Houston some bright Tuesday morning and then think it over! A baseball team is only nine men with about fourteen more in reserve, and Texans love baseball. I will readily admit that no Texas city can afford to support the Metropolitan Opera, but Houston does not need the support of the St. Louis Cardinals to maintain a baseball team. So many of the players in all of the leagues come from Texas that this state might very well have the best teams in the world. Imagine, Dallas, for example, saying with pride, "Our star shortstop has just been bought by the Washington Senators." Why, Dallas is potentially a better baseball city than Washington, D. C., and can prove it when it chooses. If you strike from the total population of Washington the appallingly large number of Negroes who barely exist and cannot afford to attend baseball games, Dallas is the larger city.

* * *

A few great metropolitan centers, mainly along the Eastern seaboard, impose upon the rest of this country by a trick so simple that it ought not to fool the pupils in the third grade of grammar school. The essence of the trick is: "Our man must be the best in the world or we wouldn't be paying him the enormous salary he draws." And with this goes the innuendo: "You would be wise to accept our product because you can't afford to compete." Now let's have a look at a few fields in which it is possible that we may be able to compete if we refuse to be stampeded. A Southern city of 300,000 population with a large trade territory (and all of the cities of that size have large trade territories) can support, if it wishes to do so, a symphony orchestra and a local theater. Musical and histrionic talent abounds everywhere. In New York City, Arturo Toscanini is paid $100,000 a year for directing an orchestra. But it is possible to employ a director for $5,000 to $10,000 a year, and it does not follow that he must be one-twentieth to one-tenth competent because of the dollar-arithmetic. As for the theater, its limitation is the human ear, which is the same in Atlanta or Dallas as in New York. When you fill the theater, you have done as much as you could do in New York. Broadway has nothing more to offer in this regard than has Main street.

The obstacle is that we have become accustomed to thinking: "If this artist were really good, he wouldn't be here." But that is absurd. It flows from our acceptance of the role of provincials. And it is accounted for, in part, by the fact that we do not analyze the economics of the motion picture and radio. They make it possible for the artist to entertain millions. A tiny percentage of the gross receipts mounts to staggering sums. But local enterprises in our cities have same bases economics that apply to local enterprises in New York City. The Southern city of 300,000 cannot support ten theaters, but it can certainly enjoy one. Just as soon as its residents realize this, they can have approximately as good a theater as any other city.

In certain limited fields we are well aware of the basic facts. For example, Dallas has one of the best fire departments in the world. It isn't a duplicate of New York City's fire department, but Dallas doesn't need one that large. Within its needs, however, it is as well equipped and expert, and Dallas would be ashamed to have less. And in the matter of public libraries we are inclined to think that we can't be expected to duplicate the New York Public Library. There is no need to do that. But we could do a great deal better. Each of a dozen Southern cities could have as good a library comparable to the needs.

"What you don't realize" a friend said to me recently, as we discussed this subject, "is that these proud cities that you admire are populated mainly by poor people. In other words, they are not nearly as rich as you think they are."

"If New York City," I answered, "had as many automobiles per capita as Dallas or Shreveport or Memphis it would have to close the streets and give up. Our cities are like Hercules, and we bow humbly to the posturing gnats. Shame on us!"

Agriculture-1937
Condition of.

General

News Behind The News

By Paul Mallon

WASHINGTON, Feb. 22.—Don't whisper a word of it to the Southern congressmen, but a slightly rare, if not raw, speech concerning them was not delivered by Rural Resettler W. W. Alexander in Des Moines a few days back.

You cannot get a copy of it around the Agriculture Department for $100. Advances furnished news dispensing agencies have been confiscated, cancelled, recalled and suppressed. Pals of Agriculture Secretary Wallace rushed about and borrowed the few remaining copies from the hands of unsuspecting newsmen. These have now been permanently mislaid.

It is obvious that Mr. Wallace is not going to let that classic opus fall into congressional hands at a time when President Roosevelt is trying to soothe the brows of Southern senators, ruffled by his Supreme Court repacking plan. And, to make the occasion doubly inauspicious, Mr. Wallace is likewise now ladling out soothing syrup for the Southern legislators to make them swallow his kind of farm tenant plan.

Atlanta 2-23-37 Montgomery Adv.

But what makes suppression triply desirable is that Dr. Alexander, the successor to Prof. Tugwell, intended to deliver it to a conference of farm leaders called to promote harmony between the South and West.

* * * *

FAST WORK—If you inquire what happened, you will be informed officially Dr. Alexander decided at the last minute that perhaps this was not the time and a West-South harmony conference was not the place to reopen the Civil War.

However, that is not exactly the way it happened.

It seems the speech was prepared in the Rural Resettlement Administration and sent over to the Agriculture Department for an okay. Advance copies were circulated in the usual routine way. No one paid much attention to it, until a few hours before it was to be delivered. Then, someone near Mr. Wallace here discovered the possibilities of a bad reaction. Conferences were hastily called. The speech was ordered killed.

Agriculture publicity men yelled: "Stop the presses." Confidential instructions to "disregard the speech of Dr. Alexander" were sent to all news circulating agencies. Instructions were passed around quietly to all officials to say nothing.

* * * *

TUGWELLIAN TRADITION—A perusal of the lost speech indicates that most Southerners probably cannot read anyway, so it may be safe to relate to the rest of the country that Dr. Alexander's viewpoint looks up Tobacco Road. He is a former Southern minister, but his undelivered masterpiece contains assertions that the Southern farm standard of living is 30 to 50 per cent below the national level, that sanitary facilities are most primitive, that houses are the poorest, that the good-for-nothingness of the tenant farmer is really illness due to underfeeding.

To the Administration's harmony conference (the first annual National Farm Institute), Dr. Alexander would have said, had he been permitted: "Security for the farm population is more important for the South than other sections of the country. Yet our farm leaders in recent years have come from the Middle West."

Note—Dr. Alexander must have forgotten Agriculture Chairmen Jones in the House and Smith in the Senate; Ed O'Neal, head of the Farm Bureau Federation, who hails from Alabama, Senator Bankhead et al.

"The farmer is always first in the minds of the Middle West statesmen. Such is too often not the case with Southern statesmen.

"Southern leaders must recognize agriculture as the most vital force in the life of the South, for before anything can be done materially to improve conditions in the South, it must develop a sound agriculture. Any realistic political affiliation for gaining these aims must be with other farming regions."

Note—If V. P. Garner, Floor Leaders Robinson, and Rayburn ever find out about this, there will certainly be some more suppressed remarks forthcoming about carpetbagging politics.

* * * *

TRAGEDY—The suppressed text continues: "The policy of the South toward the problems causing and growing out of farm tenancy has been to let them alone.

"The growth of white tenancy, the loss of foreign markets, the widespread depletion of soil fertility and the recent depression have forced many to face the problems and see the necessity for planning as their solution for agricultural problems.

"Many Southern leaders, however, still cling to the belief that industry will repeat its wonders for the South. Because of this, and the fact that the credit system of the South is controlled by north-eastern capital, their political affiliation has been with these regions rather than with other progressive farming regions."

Dr. Alexander also thought it tragic that so few people voted in the South. His statistics indicated only 14 per cent of South Carolina citizens over 21 took the trouble to vote in 1936; Georgia 19 per cent; Alabama 20 per cent; Virginia 25 per cent.

He neglected to point out that the result would not have been different if 101 per cent had voted, as was suspected in some of the machine-laden precincts of the larger northern cities.

The most horrible aspect of the speech from the standpoint of Mr. Wallace's friends here lies in their contemplation of what remarks like these might do to his 1940 presidential candidacy.

They are saying that Mr. Wallace is about ready to transfer Dr. Tugwell's old bureau back to the molasses tycoon, or even to Spain.

TENANT TROUBLES: President Makes Two Congressional Appeals to Aid Farmers

Labor 2-27-37

Roast suckling pig, sweet potato soufflé, fried chicken, Carolina stew, hominy grits and sorghum, apple-sass and p'k chops. . . .

Most slaves in the Old South, Mrs. Stowe notwithstanding, used to fare well. They lived in well-built cabins, were taken care of when sick, got easier work as they grew old, felt a security that fitted their laughing, singing, joyously religious nature. If they were lucky "house niggers," they even wore shoes, had *corn bread and 'lasses, sow-belly once a day, grits without sorghum. . . .*

Contrast—America's eight million "peasants" (a third Negroes, two-thirds old American white stock, 42 per cent. of all U. S. farmers) live more humbly. Their ramshackle, floorless cabins, unpainted and with leaky roofs, their tattered jeans, their body sores from undernourishment, their fear of starving, of harsh landlords, better fit the picture of dark-age Europe than that of present-day American agriculture.

Such a picture was painted to Congress last week, as the President, in a special message, asked for legislative action to curb the increase of farm tenancy.

The chief agricultural products of tenant farmers are cotton and tobacco. A glossary of "cotton-peonage" terms would show: (1) tenant farmers, who pay rent for their land in cash; (2) share tenants, who pay usually one-fourth of crop, often have share-croppers working for them; (3) share-croppers, who own no land, no tools, not even a mule, nor any money until harvest time. Landlord supplies their home, their "furnish" (food, necessities), gives them half their crop, less advanced "furnish" and interest; (4) agricultural laborers—often worse off than share-croppers, they work for fifty cents a day when they are needed, have no credit at the planters' commissary.

Average Income—These American "peasants" would laugh if they ever saw a newspaper with the Federal Government's supposed minimum family income: $1,500 a year. Their average income in rough food, insanitary, crowded houses and a dribble of cash is little more than $200 a year, may be as little as $70. The average farm is forty acres, with about half planted for the main crop, cotton or tobacco. Average machinery is worth $11.01, live stock $24.54 (value of a single scrawny cow).

Crop—Cotton, once supplied by America alone, is now raised by fifty nations. As a one-crop economy has depleted the soil of the 1,600-mile Cotton Belt, and the boll-weevil has done its bit, the farmers, with inadequate machinery and little use of scientific agriculture, have been the losers. Other factors in their distress: Bad credit conditions (interest often as high as 36 per cent.) and the economic failure of many landlords. Two million men, women and children have been cast adrift without land or decent homes. The Federal Government already has spent $1,500,000,000 for relief.

Aids—The President's (and his Committee's) proposals: (1) liberal credit to enable tenants with experience and ability to buy their own farms over a long period with a five-year trial, and technical advice to assure success; (2) small loans with education and guidance to prevent mortgaged farm owners from slipping into tenancy (40,000 do every year); (3) the retirement from production of land unsuited for farming and assistance to the families living thereon in finding homes on good land; (4) cooperation with State and local agencies to improve the general leasing system. (One specific evil attacked is the law, in many States, that a tenant in debt can not move away.)

Criticism aimed at Federal refinancing of tenant farmers stresses these points: (1) withholding title to refinanced land until the farmer tenant has been on it five years is unsound; (2) placing the Farm Security Corporation and the Farm Security Administration under the Department of Agriculture instead of in a separate administration might give rise to abuses; (3) the "small homestead" philosophy is basically unsound, as collective farms, either cooperative or capitalist, can operate at one-third the cost per acre of one-man-and-a-mule farming.

NEW RA HEAD HALTED IN ATTACK ON TENANCY

Commercial

Dr. Alexander Reported To Have Aroused Wallace

2-21-37

IOWA SPEECH RECALLED

Memphis, Tenn.

Acting Official's Scheduled Address Centered on Castigation of Sharecropper System in Southern Cotton States

BY GEORGE MORRIS

WASHINGTON, Feb. 20. — Dr. Will Alexander, acting resettlement administrator and south baiter from Atlanta, traveled out to Des Moines, Iowa, Friday to deliver a speech before the National Farm Institute on the subject: "The Farm Tenant Situation in the Cotton South," and caused consternation in the Department of Agriculture, which is endeavoring to work out the agricultural problem on a national policy.

The speech, prepared two weeks before scheduled delivery, escaped attention until after it was released late Friday. Then it was hastily recalled and newspapers were requested to ignore it. The reason given by the RA was when Dr. Alexander reached Des Moines he found he was not on the program for a formal address, and there ore would not be able to delived the speech in its entirety.

From other sources it was said suggestion that the speech be recalled came from the Department of Agriculture, which did not approve of his castigations of the south.

Alliance Sought

A feature of the Des Moines meeting was to promote a political economic alliance between the agricultural south and west. Secretary Wallace had previously advocated "intergroup, intersectional and democratic" ideas, in line with the need for bringing all sections together, "not only cotton and wheat and corn and dairying, but other great divisions of agricultural productions."

The spirit of Dr. Alexander's recalled address was to arouse sectional antagonism and race prejudice against the south. "The

Agriculture-1937
Condition of

General

News Behind The News

By Paul Mallon

WASHINGTON, Feb. 22.—Don't whisper a word of it to the Southern congressmen, but a slightly rare, if not raw, speech concerning them was not delivered by Rural Resettler W. W. Alexander in Des Moines a few days back.

You cannot get a copy of it around the Agriculture Department for $100. Advances furnished news dispensing agencies have been confiscated, cancelled, recalled and suppressed. Pals of Agriculture Secretary Wallace rushed about and borrowed the few remaining copies from the hands of unsuspecting newsmen. These have now been permanently mislaid.

It is obvious that Mr. Wallace is not going to let that classic opus fall into congressional hands at a time when President Roosevelt is trying to soothe the brows of Southern senators, ruffled by his Supreme Court repacking plan, and, to make the occasion doubly inauspicious, Mr. Wallace is likewise now ladling out soothing syrup for the Southern legislators to make them swallow his kind of farm tenant plan.

But what makes suppression triply desirable is that Dr. Alexander, the successor to Prof. Tugwell, intended to deliver it to a conference of farm leaders called to promote harmony between the South and West.

* * * *

FAST WORK—If you inquire what happened, you will be informed officially Dr. Alexander decided at the last minute that perhaps this was not the time and a West-South harmony conference was not the place to reopen the Civil War.

However, that is not exactly the way it happened.

It seems the speech was prepared in the Rural Resettlement Administration and sent over to the Agriculture Department for an okay. Advance copies were circulated in the usual routine way. No one paid much attention to it, until a few hours before it was to be delivered. Then, someone near Mr. Wallace here discovered the possibilities of a bad reaction. Conferences were hastily called. The speech was ordered killed.

Agriculture publicity men yelled: "Stop the presses." Confidential instructions to "disregard the speech of Dr. Alexander" were sent to all news circulating agencies. Instructions were passed around quietly to all officials to say nothing.

* * * *

TUGWELLIAN TRADITION—A perusal of the lost speech indicates that most Southerners probably cannot read anyway, so it may be safe to relate to the rest of the country that Dr. Alexander's viewpoint looks up Tobacco Road. He is a former Southern minister, but his undelivered masterpiece contains assertions that the Southern farm standard of living is 30 to 50 per cent below the national level, that sanitary facilities are most primitive, that houses are the poorest, that the good-for-nothingness of the tenant farmer is really illness due to underfeeding.

To the Administration's harmony conference (the first annual National Farm Institute), Dr. Alexander would have said, had he been permitted: "Security for the farm population is more important for the South than other sections of the country. Yet our farm leaders in recent years have come from the Middle West."

Note—Dr. Alexander must have forgotten Agriculture Chairmen Jones in the House and Smith in the Senate; Ed O'Neal, head of the Farm Bureau Federation, who hails from Alabama, Senator Bankhead et al.

"The farmer is always first in the minds of the Middle West statesmen. Such is too often not the case with Southern statesmen.

"Southern leaders must recognize agriculture as the most vital force in the life of the South, for before anything can be done materially to improve conditions in the South, it must develop a sound agriculture. Any realistic political affiliation for gaining these aims must be with other farming regions."

Note—If V. P. Garner, Floor Leaders Robinson, and Rayburn ever find out about this, there will certainly be some more suppressed remarks forthcoming about carpetbagging politics.

* * * *

TRAGEDY—The suppressed text continues: "The policy of the South toward the problems causing and growing out of farm tenancy has been to let them alone.

"The growth of white tenancy, the loss of foreign markets, the widespread depletion of soil fertility and the recent depression have forced many to face the problems and see the necessity for planning as their solution for agricultural problems.

"Many Southern leaders, however, still cling to the belief that industry will repeat its wonders for the South. Because of this, and the fact that the credit system of the South is controlled by north-eastern capital, their political affiliation has been with these regions rather than with other progressive farming regions."

Dr. Alexander also thought it tragic that so few people voted in the South. His statistics indicated only 14 per cent of South Carolina citizens over 21 took the trouble to vote in 1936; Georgia 19 per cent; Alabama 20 per cent; Virginia 25 per cent.

He neglected to point out that the result would not have been different if 101 per cent had voted, as was suspected in some of the machine-laden precincts of the larger northern cities.

The most horrible aspect of the speech from the standpoint of Mr. Wallace's friends here lies in their contemplation of what remarks like these might do to his 1940 presidential candidacy.

They are saying that Mr. Wallace is about ready to transfer Dr. Tugwell's old bureau back to the molasses tycoon, or even to Spain.

TENANT TROUBLES: President Makes Two Congressional Appeals to Aid Farmers

Roast suckling pig, sweet potato soufflé, fried chicken. Carolina stew, hominy grits and sorghum, apple-sass and p'k chops. . . .

Most slaves in the Old South, Mrs. Stowe notwithstanding, used to fare well. They lived in well-built cabins, were taken care of when sick, got easier work as they grew old, felt a security that fitted their laughing, singing, joyously religious nature. If they were lucky "house niggers," they even wore shoes, had *corn bread and 'lasses, sow-belly once a day, grits without sorghum. . . .*

Contrast—America's eight million "peasants" (a third Negroes, two-thirds old American white stock, 42 per cent of all U. S. farmers) live more humbly. Their ramshackle, floorless cabins, unpainted and with leaky roofs, their tattered jeans, their body sores from undernourishment, their fear of starving, of harsh landlords, better fit the picture of dark-age Europe than that of present-day American agriculture.

Such a picture was painted to Congress last week, as the President, in a special message, asked for legislative action to curb the increase of farm tenancy.

The chief agricultural products of tenant farmers are cotton and tobacco. A glossary of "cotton-peonage" terms would show: (1) tenant farmers, who pay rent for their land in cash; (2) share tenants, who pay usually one-fourth of crop, often have share-croppers working for them; (3) share-croppers, who own no land, no tools, not even a mule, nor any money until harvest time. Landlord supplies their home, their "furnish" (food, necessities), gives them half their crop, less advanced "furnish" and interest; (4) agricultural laborers—often worse off than share-croppers, they work for fifty cents a day when they are needed, have no credit at the planters' commissary.

Average Income—These American "peasants" would laugh if they ever saw a newspaper with the Federal Government's supposed minimum family income: $1,500 a year. Their average income in rough food, insanitary, crowded houses and a dribble of cash is little more than $200 a year, may be as little as $70. The average farm is forty acres, with about half planted for the main crop, cotton or tobacco. Average machinery is worth $11.01, live stock $24.54 (value of a single scrawny cow).

Crop—Cotton, once supplied by America alone, is now raised by fifty nations. As a one-crop economy has depleted the soil of the 1,600-mile Cotton Belt, and the boll-weevil has done its bit, the farmers, with inadequate machinery and little use of scientific agriculture, have been the losers. Other factors in their distress: Bad credit conditions (interest often as high as 36 per cent.) and the economic failure of many landlords. Two million men, women and children have been cast adrift without land or decent homes. The Federal Government already has spent $1,500,000,000 for relief.

Aids—The President's (and his Committee's) proposals: (1) liberal credit to enable tenants with experience and ability to buy their own farms over a long period with a five-year trial, and technical advice to assure success; (2) small loans with education and guidance to prevent mortgaged farm owners from slipping into tenancy (40,000 do every year); (3) the retirement from production of land unsuited for farming and assistance to the families living thereon in finding homes on good land; (4) cooperation with State and local agencies to improve the general leasing system. (One specific evil attacked is the law, in many States, that a tenant in debt can not move away.)

Criticism aimed at Federal refinancing of tenant farmers stresses these points: (1) withholding title to refinanced land until the farmer tenant has been on it five years is unsound; (2) placing the Farm Security Corporation and the Farm Security Administration under the Department of Agriculture instead of in a separate administration might give rise to abuses; (3) the "small homestead" philosophy is basically unsound, as collective farms, either cooperative or capitalist, can operate at one-third the cost per acre of one-man-and-a-mule farming.

NEW RA HEAD HALTED IN ATTACK ON TENANCY

Dr. Alexander Reported To Have Aroused Wallace

IOWA SPEECH RECALLED

Acting Official's Scheduled Address Centered on Castigation of Sharecropper System in Southern Cotton States

BY GEORGE MORRIS

WASHINGTON, Feb. 20. — Dr. Will Alexander, acting resettlement administrator and south baiter from Atlanta, traveled out to Des Moines, Iowa, Friday to deliver a speech before the National Farm Institute on the subject: "The Farm Tenant Situation in the Cotton South," and caused consternation in the Department of Agriculture, which is endeavoring to work out the agricultural problem on a national policy.

The speech, prepared two weeks before scheduled delivery, escaped attention until after it was released late Friday. Then it was hastily recalled and newspapers were requested to ignore it. The reason given by the RA was when Dr. Alexander reached Des Moines he found he was not on the program for a formal address, and there [illegible]ore would not be able to delived the speech in its entirety.

From other sources it was said suggestion that the speech be recalled came from the Department of Agriculture, which did not approve of his castigations of the south.

Alliance Sought

A feature of the Des Moines meeting was to promote a political economic alliance between the agricultural south and west. Secretary Wallace had previously advocated "intergroup, intersectional and democratic" ideas, in line with the need for bringing all sections together, "not only cotton and wheat and corn and dairying, but other great divisions. of agricultural productions."

The spirit of Dr. Alexander's recalled address was to arouse sectional antagonism and race prejudice against the south. "The

plight of the tenant," Dr. Alexander was scheduled to say, "at settlement time is notorious. As a part of the age-old custom, the landlord keeps the books and handles the sale of all crops. The fortunate croppers break even; very few have any cash left over.

"The landlord," he continued, "is interested only in the production of the crop which will bring him his rent each year and will enable the tenant to repay what has been advanced to him. Before the tenant becomes acquainted with his neighbors or connected with the church, he finds it necessary to move.

"Tenant families as a rule are probably the poorest fed of any large group in America. Devotion to the single cash crop and the fact that food crops mature during the same season as cotton, make it virtually impossible under the present agricultural system to raise subsistence crops or livestock. Very few tenants have gardens of any kind. When they do have gardens they seldom have the desire or the facilities for conserving the food for use in winter. His principal diet consists of corn meal, salt pork and molasses.

Hits Political Leaders

"The practice of race segregation," he added, "further complicates the problem of adequate schooling."

"Our farm leaders in recent years have come from the middle west. The farmer is always first in the minds of the middle western statesmen. Such is too often not the case with southern statesmen. Any realistic political affiliation for gaining these aims must be with other farming regions. The attitude of the south toward the problems causing and growing out of farm tenancy has been to let them alone. Before we can achieve our aim there must be an awakened public opinion in the south which faces the problems to be dealt with realistically and is willing to pay the price of progress."

With the RA under fire, and Secretary Wallace none too sympathetic with the radical views of Dr. Alexander, the withdrawn speech, which is being read with interest by southern members of Congress, is not calculated to make the Congress more sympathetic toward the RA or its director.

Enterprise, Ala. Ledger
February 19, 1937

FARM TENANCY IS SOUTH'S PROBLEM

Modern economic developments have forced the conclusion that the abolition of slavery was merely an episode in the history of the plantation system.

The transition from cotton plantation to cotton tenancy is not the break with the past that it is commonly supposed to be.

The plantation, staggerd by the shock of the abolition of slavery, after a brief hiatus reorganized its labor supply into a tenancy and share cropping system.

A stricken upper class, possessing nothing but land, met a servile population possessing nothing but the labor of its hand. In what must have been an era of primitive barter, a system was arrived at whereby labor was secured "without money wages and land without money rent."

Share rent and the crop lien, accordingly was developed to readjust the Negro to cotton production on terms more fitting a modern economy than slavery. The success of the system was so great as to be disastrous.

Accepted as a temporary arrangement, it developed into a permanent system.

Many of the enfeebled aristocracy saw their once proud acres go on the block at ridiculously low prices, but the hope for the rise of a vigorous yeomanry never materialized.

As the planter went out, the rising merchant and professional classes of the towns bought up farms and introduced absentee landlordism. This process was completed with the necessity for credit forced the mortgage of lands to outside financial interests and mortgage companies.

Congregated on the original fringes of the plantation system, the "poor white" farmers poured into the scheme until now white tenants exceed Negro tenants in the South.

This is all the more surprising when we realize that all the Negro landowners are descendants of slave laborers while practically all the white tenants are descendants of small owners and frontiersmen of ante-bellum days.

Historically, the South can be compared with European countries which have changed from a system of feudal landholdings or serfdom.

Only in countries which have made determined efforts like France, Denmark, and Ireland have successful forms of peasant ownership been erected on the ruins of the feudal system of land tenure.

It is doubtful that the South will ever realize its potentialities until it somehow rids itself of the burden of share tenancy and the crop lien.

Cut-Over Land Seen As Asset

With Proper Treatment Acreage May Become Major Asset

AUBURN, ALA., Feb. 25.—Cut-over lands in nine Southern States—Alabama, Soutn Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Mississippi, Louisiana, Arkansas, Oklahoma, and Texas—can be made a big asset to the South, if they are properly treated and adequately protected.

E. L. Demmon, director of the Southern Forest Experiment Station, New Orleans, says that a survey of more than 200 million acres of forests in those States shows that the new crop of timber, properly managed for sustained or continuous production, would support most of the present forest industries and many new units forever.

The survey indicates that on most of the cut-over forest lands in the South, the second-growth is capable of supporting a large lumber industry indefinitely if the stand is properly managed and protected.

The outlook also is good for the production of pulp and paper. Director Demmon figures that, in addition to the 250,000,000 cords of wood immediately available for pulp, the forests will produce at least a third of a cord an acre each year in the future, or a total of 35,000,000 cords each year. And on the better forest areas, good management would boost the yearly production from a third of a cord up to a cord or more to the acre.

The survey indicates that the South could supply nearly a third of this country's future requirements of brown Kraft wrapping paper, bags and boxboards, or more than any other forest region in the United States. The South could also supply a large part of this country's requirements of newsprint and other woodpulp papers. This country now imports more than half of the pulp and paper which it uses, or about $150,000,000 worth each year.

The production of the naval stores, turpentine and rosin, is another big forest industry in the South. The survey shows that under scientific management probably 24,000,000 new trees could be brought into production each year. In other words, the production of naval stores could be increased by 60 per cent a year indefinitely.

The forests of the South can do this, however, only if they are given full protection from fire, and managed in such a way that the growing stock is preserved by good management and not depleted by wasteful or exploitive methods of cutting.

In an article in "Social Forces" recently entitled "Racial Factors and Economic Forces in Land Tenure in the South," by Prof. Monroe N. Work of Tuskegee Institute, this observation is made: "From what has been shown above it would appear that the result of the shrinkage of the black belt area and the movement of Negroes from black counties to white counties has resulted in a more even distribution of the Negro population over the entire South." There are those who see in this a good omen for the Negro masses of the South.

"LAND TENURE IN THE SOUTH"

Monroe N. Work has contributed a valuable treatise dealing with land ownership of black people in the South. The pamphlet deals with several important aspects of rural life affecting both the white and black people who are ignorant of many of the essential land laws having to do with acquiring titles to property.

The titles made at any time become confused, interrupted and void should a white neighbor become envious of the prosperity of a black land owner and arbitrarily order him to leave the community, says Mr. Work. It is also contended that farm ownership becomes an uncertain factor because the proper legal procedures are seldom gone through in securing title to many thousands of acres of land purchased by black people.

This point is sustained by the following:

"Much of the land purchased by Negroes has been by the bond-for-title method. This, in effect, is a contract between the seller and the purchaser, which, when the purchaser has fulfilled certain stipulations with reference to payments, he will receive a deed to the land. Many an ignorant Negro, because of its legal phraseology has considered bond-for-title as an actual deed. The holder of the bond-for-title becomes the nominal owner of the tract of land and agrees to pay all subsequent taxes and assessments thereon. If at any time, however, before the expiration of the time limit for the completion of the payments the purchaser defaults in his payments, the land reverts to the original owner. What the would-be purchaser has paid on the land, is credited to him as rent. This bond-for-title method of purchasing land, which is not confined to the Negro, is much more profitable to the seller than to execute a deed and take a mortgage. Under the bond-for-title procedure as contrasted with mortgage foreclosure, there is less expense incurred by the original owner to regain possession of the land."

ONE WHO WRITES over the ceaseless agitation concerning the plight of the southern sharecropper, careless statements of how he is robbed by the landowner and how the situation can be remedied by confiscating the land from those who own it and giving it to the tenants, sometimes wonders why all the sympathy should be for those who rent land and none for those who rent apartments and houses. A lot is said about housing conditions of farm tenants, but no one seems to think there is anything unusual about the squalor, filth and degeneracy in the crime-breeding and disease spreading slums.

ASSUMING that a city family has an income of $900 a year, there is a minimum expenditure of $360 for rent, $120 for light and fuel, $50 for car fare and $12 for water. From the remaining $260, there is about 85 cents a day for food, clothing, doctor's bills and incidentals. When the account is closed at the end of the year the city dweller, fortunate enough to have $900 a year, is no better off than he was at the beginning. The farm tenant, on the other hand, pays no housing rent; has no expense for light or fuel; has had plenty of fresh vegetables, fresh eggs, milk, butter and meat. If, after paying his debts he has $100 or more, or has only managed to come out even, he has had plenty of fresh air and sunshine. The landlord has watched after the health of his family. He has had little or nothing to worry over. He has raised and gathered a crop and worked only half-time. His children have had the advantage of schools and are on a fair way to make their conditions easier than their father's.

IT ISN'T as though nothing were done to improve the condition of the farm tenant before the government became his guardian. Furthermore, the tenant is in a position to help himself. He has the same opportunity as any other farmer, landowner, renter or sharecropper. His opportunity may not be all that could be desired, but neither is that of any farmer who must take chances with flood, drouth, pestilence and low prices. But in any event, his prospects are far more inviting than the individual whose sole dependence is in finding work in the city, and whose rents and living costs are on a cash basis and are running about the same whether he is working or idle.

THERE HAS GROWN UP in this country an idea that every person who lives on a farm should own the land he tills, that the house he lives in should be his castle, even if it must be confiscated and taken away from the individual who worked and paid for it, and that he should own it in fee simple. Assuming that is the correct theory, the city dweller has a right to complain. No one has proposed to take an apartment building away from the owner and distribute it among the tenants. A lot of sympathy is manifested for the sharecropping tenant, who has so little left at the end of the year, but practically nobody is concerned with the city dweller of the same economic status. He not only has nothing at the end of the year but is hungry, cold and homeless throughout the greater part of the year. At least that is the way he was described by the ministers in Washington

Agriculture-1937
Condition of.

General.

Senator Bilbo Wants Farmers To Own Land

Refers To Dr. Carver In Advocating Law To Aid Tenants

(Special to Journal and Guide)

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Senator Theodore Bilbo, of Mississippi, whose state tops the list of sharecroppers and farm tenants, favored the Farm Tenancy Act which both houses of Congress passed last week.

The act as passed provides $135,000,000 to aid a maximum of 3,000,000 farm tenants and sharecroppers with loans to help them buy farms. If this experiment succeeds the next session of Congress will no doubt provide additional funds to take care of a still larger number.

Approximately 52 per cent of all farmers in the country are in the tenant, sharecropper class.

This Mississippian, who was notoriously spectacular as governor but who has been rather dignified or restrained as a United States senator, wants Congress to go further than merely setting the destitute farm people up in business. He wants the tariffs on agricultural products so revised that the American farmer will be protected in his domestic market.

He thinks that as far as cotton is concerned the domestic market is all that the cotton growers of the South will have in a very few years. He is alarmed over the increase in cotton culture in Russia, India, Egypt and South America.

PROBLEM NOT RACIAL SAYS BILBO

Speaking for the bill in the Senate last Friday, Mr. Bilbo declared: "Fifty-two per cent of our farmers are tenant farmers. It is not a race question, either; because in the South two-thirds of the tenants are white and one-third are Negroes."

"The federal government, acting through Congress, is responsible for tenancy existing througout the United States," he continued. "So long as the Congress is influenced both in the making of laws by influences which are not of the best for the rank and file of the American people, we shall not be able to solve the problem."

WOULD ADOPT EUROPEAN METHODS

Senator Bilbo said that he had made a first hand study of the methods used by Denmark in reducing farm tenancy from 50 per cent to five per cent; and in Ireland, where the rate had been reduced from 97 to three per cent. He would like to see those methods adopted in America.

He told the Senate that he was interested in the establishment of "a great chemical research laboratory in the cotton belt for the purpose of discovering other uses for cotton seed, and its by-products." He wants this done because he visions the passing of the foreign markets for American cotton, and the farmers must realize more from smaller crops.

CITES CARVER, BUT DOES NOT NAME HIM

"Chemurgy is the only way out," he said. "An old Negro connected with Tuskegee Institute, in Alabama, through the chemical route found over 300 uses for the lowly peanut.

"In setting the establishment of a great chemical laboratory in the South I am not confining its activities to finding other uses for cotton alone, but am seeking to find additional uses for every crop that is grown in the South.

"So I say that while the pending measure is essential in order to give the farmer a start, yet we are going to fail in the end if we embark him on an undertaking, equip his farm with mules and teams and implements and everything he needs, unless we create a condition by laws passed by Congress, yes; by the assistance of the Government, yes; that will enable him to sell the crops which it is proposed to help him to produce, so that he may maintain a decent living and pay back to the Government the money we invest in him.

"I am very much in favor of the pending bill because I know that the man who owns a home will naturally make a better citizen. If after the Civil War the Negroes of the South, when they were freed, had been given a piece of land to hold as their own, something to which they would have been tied, I say to you, Mr. President, that today there would not be a Harlem in New York, or a black belt in Chicago, because the highest and best type of Negroes we have in the South are those who have, through their frugality and labor, become the owners of their own homes. They make a better citizen.

"Of course, there are many patriotic citizens of this country who are homeless, but I dare say if such citizens owned their homes and had some place they could call home, they would be still better citizens."

KNIFING THE TENANT BILL

Since the fight for farm tenant legislation began there has been less opposition to such a program than to any of the social or economic reforms undertaken by the Federal government.

Also since the program was first suggested its chief proponents have agreed unanimously on a few salient points. Among the points agreed on have been these:

1. The land would be bought by the Federal government and resold to tenants, with title remaining in the hands of the government for a period of 15 to 25 years.

2. Tenants would be selected according to their ability and initiative.

3. There would be a trial period during which the tenant would rent the land and supervision and guidance over his crop policies would be continued until title to the land was turned over to the individual.

These fundamental points were provided for in the original Bankhead bill and the one recently passed by the Senate.

The bill passed by the House, however, differed in many important respects. In the compromise that was finally forced through in conference, the House clique which has been opposed to tenancy legislation of any sort has evidently been successful in knifing the Bankhead principles.

Under the compromise, title to the land would be turned over to tenants immediately and the Federal government would have the power of supervision for a period of five years only. After that the tenant would be free to mortgage his land, sell off whatever he had accumulated in the way of a cow, a hog, a mule, etc., and fall into the old one-crop habit. He would also be left to the wiles of land racketeers and other varieties of racketeers.

It is a shame that those who have not been in sympathy with a constructive tenancy program should have remained silent and then been successful in their efforts to twist the bill to the point where it now resembles just another farm loan program.

It is even reported that the President may not sign the bill at all, since so many departures have been made from the Bankhead formula.

Those who are responsible for this situation are accepting the responsibility for continuing a situation that is slowly gnawing at the fabric of our agricultural, economic and political life.

WALLACE TO BARE PERMANENT PLAN FOR LINT CONTROL

3,000 Farmers and Agents at Memphis To Hear Secretary Explain.

MEMPHIS, Tenn., Sept. 30.—(UP)—An administration - approved proposal for permanent cotton control legislation will be explained to Dixie's farmers tomorrow by Secretary of Agriculture Wallace, it was reliably reported tonight.

Approximately 3,000 farmers and agricultural agents of cotton producing states were expected to hear the New Deal official go beyond explanation of the 1938 reduction program by announcing a policy dealing with long-time planning.

Authoritative sources said the secretary would advocate a less stringent control program, recommending discontinuance of drastic crop limitation legislation adopted as an emergency measure.

Middle of Road Policy.

He will strike a course midway between abandonment of world markets and unlimited acreage expansion, it was reported, with the inference that the United States has no intention of eliminating its cotton export trade.

Wallace's address will climax a two-day meeting of Department of Agriculture and Agricultural Adjustment Administration officials and five county committeemen from nine southern states addressed today by I. W. Duggan, acting director of the southern division of the AAA.

Duggan said the proposed 1938 reduction program is based on a principle of payment for producing rather than diversion, and would pay farmers two cents a pound on their crops, providing the production was not less than 75 per cent or more than 100 per cent of the quota. Payments would be reduced for production outside the quota limits.

Tenant to Share.

The proposed program for next year, he said, specifies that government payments be divided between landowner and tenant.

Other features outlined by the AAA official included revisions and re-distribution of base acreage, and an increase in the base average normal yield per acre.

He indicated the flexible program adaptable to different farm lands in saying the cotton base would be determined "on the basis of the most profitable and economical use of the land."

Our Poor Mountain Whites

Many lowlanders have outlandish notions about the Southern Highlands. It is, they believe, a land of poor whites, of bloody feuds, moonshining hard-bitten men, of women grown old before their time. They see it, in its happier moods, as a land of ancient ballads and folk songs, of square dancing and fiddle playing, of handmade arts and crafts.

Typical of mountain stories but not typical of the mountain people is that in Zeigler and Grosscup's "The Heart of the Alleghanies." They thus describe a lazy mountain farmer:

"After supper as we sat by the moonlight-flooded window, on inquiring of our host why the large wing had never been finished, he answered:

"'Finished? Why, it war finished, but when the old man died, his son and heir, one of the no-countist fellows what ever lived, moved in. Wal, ye see them woods, yander?'

"'Yes.'

"'Not more 'en fifty yard away.'

"'Just about that.'

"'Wal, do you know thet thet man war too cussed lazy to go to them woods for fire wood, and so tore down thet wing, piece by piece, flooring, sidings, window sashes, doors—everything but the loft and roof, and he'd a took them ef he hadn't been too lazy to climb up stairs.

"'Wonder he didn't take the whole house.'

"'I spect he would ef I hadn't bought him out when I did. Why, man! this whole farm-yard was an apple-orchard then. How many trees do you see now?'

"'Three.'

"'That's all. Chopped down, every damned one of 'em, for the fire-place. Lazy, why, dog my skin!—'

"'Where is he now?'

"'He lives in a poor chunk of a cabin over in them woods, close enough now to fire-wood, shore'."

* * * *

A Chicago newspaper man, in a recent article entitled, "Mountain Folk Arrive Dressed as City Slickers", described the Western North Carolina group at the National Folk Festival thus:

"Many of these mountain folk were rather a shock to those of the audience who had expected black slouch hats and bare feet. The men wore white trousers and dark coats, the girls modish white dresses."

A northern clergyman, in an address in New York City last month, said that behind the beauty of the Southern mountains lies "unbelievable" poverty among the mountain people and their million children. He said this poverty is due to generations of hardship and lack of industrial and natural wealth in communities three times as thickly populated as the average rural area, and not to the depression.

"I view with distress," he said, "a disheveled school house with door sills rotting, window panes gone and floor boards broken, around whose old stove 20 ill-clad children huddled and tried to learn without more than a half dozen text books. Many had come hungry over four or five miles of impassable roads."

Is this a true picture? If so, is it typical of the Southern Appalachians? Is it true that the average mountain man makes moonshine liquor? Is he a hard drinker, a tough fighter? Is he a good-for-nothing individual who prefers to provide for his hound dogs rather than his wife and children? Does he have a large family in a little, poorly-furnished log cabin? And is this log cabin at the head of the branch or on a hill side where corn is raised to be disposed of in liquid quarts? Does he plant his corn by firing the seed into the steep hill with a shotgun and do cattle grow short-legged on one side by oft-repeated grazing on slopes, too steep for a mountain goat?

* * * *

Such pictures as these and others are sometimes painted by novelists and other popular writers and their descriptions have left their impress upon the public mind. Here are titles of some of their articles:

Politics in Moonshine Land; The Hiddden People of the Blue Ridge; A Peculiar People; A Race of Rip Van Winkles Is Waking Up; Our Contemporary Ancestors in the Southern Mountains; Behind the Times; The Mountaineers: Our Own Lost Tribes; Untamed America; Americans the Twentieth Century Forgot; Pocketed Americans; A Retarded Frontier; An American Backwater; Poor White Trash; Elizabethan America; Strange People; The Poverty Belt.

The authors of such articles as these venerate the soldiers who fought with Washington. A large number of Washington's men settled in the valley lands of Appalachian America and today many chapters of the D. A. R. and Sons of the Revolution could be formed among their descendants in the mountains. The racial stock is largely early American—Scotch-Irish and English, with some French Huguenot and German. And there are interesting survivals of the spirit, arts, and conditions of colonial times. It is true there are poverty, backwardness and poor conditions in the mountains. But is there no enlightenment anywhere inside the escarpments?

It is unfortunate that few, if any books treat the mountains as a whole. Wrong impressions are gained by one-sided pictures. The Appalachian Mountains comprise a magnificent region. It is a land of mountains, valleys, plateaus, streams, and gorges, embracing parts of the nine States of Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, Kentucky, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Georgia and Alabama. The area is 109,500 square miles, larger than all the New England States combined. It is approximately the size of England, Wales, Scotland, and Ireland combined, and it has played an important part in the making of America. It is a region worthy of serious study.

* * * *

A primary mistake by writers is to fail to distinguish between the three distinct social and economic classes in the Southern Appalachians. Careful students make this distinction. J. Wesley Hatcher in his essay, "Appalachian America," in the book, "Culture in the South," edited by W. T. Couch, finds one group of people in the valleys of the rivers and creeks where the soil is fertile, the water supply sufficient, and communication easy. These advantages are reflected in economic and social conditions. A second group lives along the creeks where the valleys are narrower, the hills higher and steeper, and the soil poorer. Yet here there is a margin beyond necessity and the people have a certain degree of comfort, security, and independence. The third group, Mr. Hatcher says, "has been shunted to the starvation point, where slopes are steepest, soil is poorest and thinnest, exposure to sun least favorable, water supply worst, easy accessibility impossible. Here there is no incentive to labor, no margin for thrift, no basis for confidence or hope, no stimulation to aspire to higher standards or to respect the customs and values of outside society. No wonder feral men are here bred. Both physical and psychical isolation have done their worst. Incentive to anything better is lacking."

Another classification, perhaps much better for scientific study, shows the population divided among urban, rural-farm, and rural-non-farm people. The population of Appalachian America according to the U. S. census, was 5,000,000 in 1930. Of this total, the division shows 2,120,267 persons living on farms; 1,755,759 in the nonfarm group, and 1,100,575 in the urban classification. The population of the entire region increased from 3,203,934 in 1900 to 5,000,000 in 1930. The region is not sparsely populated. In 1930 the average was 58 persons per square mile as compared to the United States average of 41 persons per square mile.

* * * *

The people of Appalachia engage in a diversity of occupations. In 1929 agriculture was the occupation of 583,614. Those engaged in forestry and fishing were 12,672; extraction of minerals, 191,135; manufacturing and mechanical industries, 319,203; transportation and communication, 137,193; trade, 128,485; other public service, 16,479; professional service, 85,747; domestic and personal service, 117,630; other industry, 32,792; total, 1,624,950.

For the purposes of this article, we may disregard all of these occupational classes except agriculture. The economic and social problems of the Southern Appalachians are principally among the agricultural class. The problems of the other classifications are little, if any, different from the problems of the same classes in the lowlands.

All the highly-colored stories about the mountain people have been concerned with the rural-farm population which, census figures show, is 43 per cent of the total population of Appalachian America. Figures compiled by the U. S. Department of Agriculture show that in 1930 Southern Appalachia had 383,870 farms. The average mountain farm had 86 acres as compared to the United States average of 157 acres. Of the 86-acre per farm average, 20 acres was in crop land, 23 harvested and 23 in pasture land. The value per farm of land and buildings was $3,608.

The gross income from farming in Southern Appalachia, when measured by the value of the products sold, traded, or used by the farmer's family, was $897 per farm in 1929. The value for the United States was $1,835 per farm. Of the $897 per farm in the mountains, $305 was the value of products used and $592 the value of products sold.

* * * *

In 1929, the last year for which reliable statistics are available, there were 39,465 farms, or slightly more than 10 per cent of all the farms in the mountain region, which returned $1,500 or more in the value of products sold, traded, or used. Such farms as these have substantial frame dwellings, screened windows, running water and drain in the kitchen; painted floors, cement cellar floor, adequate sanitation, and other facilities. The children attend school and life goes on as it does in the average American home. The mountain problem is not in this class. Then, where does it lie?

The problem is within that group of 113,325 farms, of about 30 per cent of the total number in the Southern Appalachians, with a value of products sold, traded, or used by the farmer's family under $400 per farm in 1929. These farmers had little, if any left, from the farm business for purchasing of family supplies or other items after paying the farm expenses. Here is the "Poverty Belt." Its population is approximately 636,000, about 12 per cent of the population of the entire mountain region. It is here one finds a tenant problem as acute as any in the South. It is here that economic and social conditions are the worst of all. The homes lack conveniences; the windows are unscreened; there is no running water in the house; the floor is unfinished; kerosene lamps are used; sanitation is poor; diet is nutritionally inadequate. One would think that the size of these families would be large. Some may be, but figures show that the number of persons per family, in 1930, was but 5.1 for the average of the rural-farm population in the mountains. The average rural non-farm family had 4.7 members, while the urban family had 4.4 members.

* * * *

The educational problem is acute in the "Poverty Belt" group. Yet the situation in the mountain region as a whole is not as serious as some would have us think. In North Carolina, a State-controlled school system will eventually improve conditions. A government report states that school conditions in Appalachia vary too much to warrant many generalizations, but "contrary to common opinion that disproportionately large numbers of educable children of elementary school age are out of school, the percentages show that this is not true as a whole." Incomplete figures for 1929 show that in six of the mountain States one-seventh of the children in the 7 to 15-age group did not attend school. Illiteracy ranged from under one to nine per cent and over in the Appalachian counties.

The basic problem in Appalachia is agricultural. A number of agencies, public and philanthropic, have striven to improve conditions, but there has been no region-wide attempt. Since there is a certain sociological unity in the region that cuts across State lines, the condition is one that calls for regional planning, not sectional measures by States acting separately. The U. S. Department of Agriculture has laid a basis for a regional plan through its studies of economic and social conditions. It remains to develop the plan. Senators and representatives in Congress from the mountain States could render no greater service than to see that such a plan is developed and carried into execution.

An encouraging sign is the development of 4-H clubs, home demonstration clubs, Future Farmers of America chapters, Parent-Teacher Associations, and similar organizations in the region. These groups, especially those devoted to vocational education, can play an important part in educating the young generation to better ways of life. But do these groups reach the "Poverty Belt"?

What would a regional plan take into consideration? It might seek to improve education; establish health facilities and services; develop resettlement projects for certain groups; develop industries; encourage more commercial farming and greater diversification of crops; establish outside markets; encourage cooperative buying and selling. Numerous things could be done, but only a thorough study will show exactly what these things are and the order in which they should be carried out. The problem is there; leadership, the regional plan, and its execution are lacking.—George W. McCoy in The Asheville Citizen.

General

Agriculture — 1937
Condition of.

WALLACE IN MEET WITH RACE MEN

MEMPHIS, Tenn.—(A N P)—Henry A. Wallace, Secretary of Agriculture, in an address here yesterday, outlined a program for Southern farmers which calls for solidarity and unity of action among all farmers in the United States in order to secure the enactment of proper legislation to safeguard their interests and to assure a stable income in the face of shrinking foreign markets.

Of the more than three thousand persons who heard the address at the Ellis Auditorium, about two hundred were Negroes.

"The per capita wealth of the Cotton South is only about half that of the rest of the Country," said Mr. Wallace. "The solution of the share-cropper problem, and the problems of disease and lack of education among some groups, and almost every problem that has drawn the attention of reformer and sociologist to the South, lies largely in one thing. We must enable the South to earn a bigger income."

In defending the 9 cent loan for cotton, the Secretary said it was fixed at that level in order "to give American cotton a chance to flow freely into export markets at the world price."

Explains Loss of Foreign Markets

In reply to those critics who claim that the AAA programs are responsible for our loss of foreign cotton markets, the Secretary said that, "twenty-six years ago, in 1911, American cotton comprised about 60 per cent of all cotton consumed abroad. Ten years later, in 1921, our share had fallen to 50 per cent and in 1931 to 45 per cent."

Unrestricted cotton production in the United States plus the increasing production in other countries will, in the opinion of the Secretary, tend to "push prices down toward the 5 cent level of 1932. or even lower,' and this "would mean a return of all the suffering and privation which farmers of the South endured in the darkest days of the depression.

Mr Wallace's six point program for the Cotton States includes:

1. Such adjustment of production as would preserve the fertility of soil and keep supply more nearly in balance with demand.
2. Encouragement of greater consumption of cotton in ways that would raise the standard of living of all people.
3. Increased production of home food and feed crops.
4. Supplement market price with payments to cooperating farmers on a allotted cotton production goal.
5. Authority for loans to prevent price collapse.
6. Authority for market quotas worked out in cooperation with producers to avert large surpluses.

Meets Negro Group

The Secretary's address terminated a two-day conference of State Committeemen from nine Southern States who met at the Chisca Hotel to study the provisions of the 1938 Conservation Program. In calling this conference, Dr. I. W. Duggan Acting Director of the Southern Divison of the AAA, included the three Negro members of his staff: Mrs. R. R. Moton James P. Davis and A. L. Holsey T. M. Campbell, Field Supervisor of Negro Extension work in seven Southern States. was also invited.

Through arrangements by Dr. Duggan, the Negro group along with Dr. J. E. Walker. president of the Universal Life Insurance Company, Memphis, was presented yesterday morning to Secretary Wallace at his suite in the Hotel Peabody. The Secretary very graciously received the group and for more than fifteen minutes discussed agricutural and business conditions among Negroes. "What does the Negro farmer think of the new plan for dividing payments between landlord and tenant and share-cropper?" as the question asked by Mr. Wallace.

The Secretary was assured that as rapidly as the Negro farmers are informed of the new division of payments for '38. they are greatly encouraged and will continue their full support of the AAA program.

THE SOUTH TODAY

The Federal Cotton Program

By JACK BRYAN

(Copyright, 1937, by Southern Newspaper Syndicate)

Editor's Note—Jack Bryan, who has had wide newspaper experience in the South, is agricultural writer for the Memphis Press-Scimitar. Mr. Bryan has devoted much study to the farm economy of the South, and is especially familiar with the cotton situation and the problems it involves.

Rough waters lie ahead on the course charted for cotton by Secretary of Agriculture Wallace in Memphis, Oct. 1.

Since that address was made, the government's crop estimate has soared 1,500,000 bales to a 17,573,000 bale crop, the second largest on record. This estimated yield hits an all-time high of 249 pounds, or half a bale, to the acre. With foreign consumption declining under pressure of war threats, a carry-over of from 8,500,000 to more than 10,000,000 bales is predicted for August of next year.

Marooned by the flood of cotton that has gushed forth from his over-abundant fields, remembering too clearly the 13,000,000 bale surplus and five-cent market of five years ago, the Southern cotton farmer has his eyes fixed on Washington to see what congress and the administration can devise to save him from the tragedy of another price collapse.

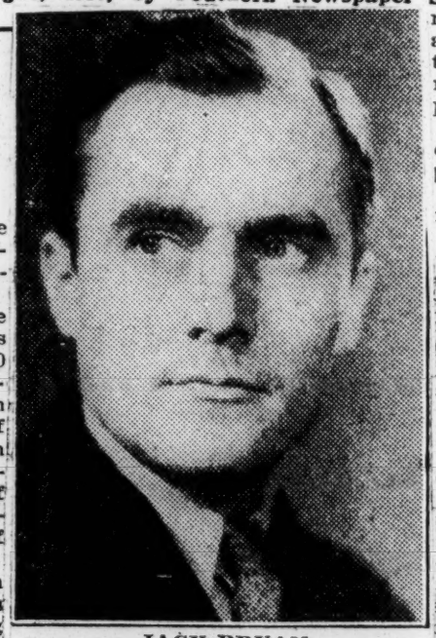
The administration's lines were laid down with fair precision in Secretary Wallace's pronouncements. Though designed for the long haul, the program is equipped to cope with emergencies.

Rejecting the counsels both of unrestricted production and of limited production for the domestic market only, the program steers a "middle course" between the opposing dangers of price collapse and abdication in the world markets.

Production Goal

Couched in a six-point program, the government's scheme centers on the maintenance of an "ever-normal warehouse" for cotton, counterpart of the "ever-normal granary" for food and feed crops. The lush years are to be played against the lean ones, offering a "stable supply of cotton in line with growing domestic and foreign requirements," and based on the "carry-over as well as the current crop."

Heart of the plan is an "allotted production goal" fixed year by year



JACK BRYAN

to provide ever normal supplies to foreign and domestic trade of "about 13 million bales, or more if they need it." Benefit payments would be made within the limits of each year's goal to all farmers who participate in the soil conservation program.

With a balanced budget now being insisted upon, however, Secretary Wallace has made it plain that such payments cannot continue to come out of the general treasury. Their most likely source, he suggested, is a revival of the processing tax, the assumption apparently being either that such a tax can be made unobjectionable to the supreme court or that the supreme court as now constituted is no longer "objectionable" to the tax.

World Competition

Significant in the program is its positive proposal to "serve notice on the world" that America intends to keep her world markets. Recognizing that our crop control has contributed in part, "but in part only," to increased foreign production and our loss of exports, Secretary Wallace now would keep our supply up to a point where the Southern farmer, supported by subsidy payments, could compete for world trade on its own terms. What will happen when other countries retaliate with similar subsidies is a bridge he did not try to cross, though he indicated that there are reasonable limits beyond which a processing tax cannot be pushed.

Coupled with the "allotted production goal" are three other points:

Continued improvement of soil fertility.

Increased domestic consumption through new uses for cotton and through greater spread of national purchasing power. (The past year's record home consumption of 8,000,000 bales the secretary credits directly to higher industrial wages, and sees the welfare of the wage worker and the cotton farmer as "all one show.")

Increased home food and feed crops on Southern farms.

The two remaining parts of the government's six-point program are reserved for use in an emergency —war, depression, or an excessive burden of bumper crops. These are stop-loss loans, to check price declines; and, as a last resort, to be used only with approval of an overwhelming majority of producers, marketing quotas, such as the Bankhead quota, on the entire crop.

"Loans," the secretary observed, "like strong stimulants, if used to excess, may kill instead of cure."

* * *

Onerous Cotton Pols

Employed "for any length of time," they produce onerous government cotton pools that upset the price structure, and prevent cotton from flowing freely into export channels.

Carefully administered. however, they have their useful place in a cotton program, to give farmers rather than speculators "the advantage of a price rise," "to check a price decline," and thus to stave off sudden catastrophe in an otherwise integrated program.

With an abnormal crop already being stored in the "ever-normal" warehouse" of American cotton, the government program calls for the application of the first emergency measure.

Up to now, the present 9-cent loan has fulfilled the function of a stop-loss loan. If the market sags too greatly under the weight of the new crop estimate, the government's course is to increase the loan as a further check on the price level.

Balanced Abundance rian

This six-point program Secretary Wallace offers as one of "balanced a surplus the market can abundance" instead of "scarcity." He presents it frankly as simply the crop will go into the loan, most feasible plan at hand through which to do justice to a section dismen in the cotton trade foresee government pool of as much advantaged by a high industrial 000,000 bales casting its long tariff.

He recognizes that, compelled to over the price structure sell low and buy high, the people of it can be liquidated. the South "for a full century have

General

Agriculture — 1937
Condition of.

WALLACE IN MEET WITH RACE MEN

Daily Worker

MEMPHIS, Tenn.—(A N P)—Henry A. Wallace, Secretary of Agriculture, in an address here yesterday, outlined a program for Southern farmers which calls for solidarity and unity of action among all farmers in the United States in order to secure the enactment of proper legislation to safeguard their interests and to assure a stable income in the face of shrinking foreign markets.

Of the more than three thousand persons who heard the address at the Ellis Auditorium, about two hundred were Negroes.

"The per capita wealth of the Cotton South is only about half that of the rest of the Country," said Mr. Wallace. "The solution of the share cropper problem, and the problems of disease and lack of education among some groups, and almost every problem that has drawn the attention of reformer and sociologist to the South, lies largely in one thing. We must enable the South to earn a bigger income."

In defending the 9 cent loan for cotton, the Secretary said it was fixed at that level in order "to give American cotton a chance to flow freely into export markets at the world price."

Explains Loss of Foreign Markets

In reply to those critics who claim that the AAA programs are responsible for our loss of foreign cotton markets, the Secretary said that, "twenty-six years ago, in 1911, American cotton comprised about 60 per cent of all cotton consumed abroad. Ten years later, in 1921, our share had fallen to 50 per cent and in 1931 to 45 per cent."

Unrestricted cotton production in the United States plus the increasing production in other countries will, in the opinion of the Secretary, tend to 'push prices down toward the 5 cent level of 1932. or even lower,' and this "would mean a return of all the suffering and privation which farmers of the South endured in the darkest days of the depression.

Mr Wallace's six point program for the Cotton States includes:

1. Such adjustment of production as would preserve the fertility of soil and keep supply more nearly in balance with demand.

2. Encouragement of greater consumption of cotton in ways that would raise the standard of living of all people.

3. Increased production of home food and feed crops.

4. Supplement market price with payments to cooperating farmers on a allotted cotton production goal.

5. Authority for loans to prevent price collapse.

6. Authority for market quotas worked out in cooperation with producers to avert large surpluses.

Meets Negro Group

The Secretary's address terminated a two-day conference of State Committeemen from nine Southern States, who met at the Chisca Hotel to study the provisions of the 1938 Conservation Program In calling this conference, Dr. I. W Duggan Acting Director of the Southern Divison of the AAA, included the three Negro members of his staff: Mrs. R. R. Moton James P. Davis and A. L. Holsey T. M. Campbell, Field Supervisor of Negro Extension work in seven Southern States, was also invited.

Through arrangements by Dr. Duggan, the Negro group along with Dr. J. E. Walker, president of the Universal Life Insurance Company, Memphis, was presented yesterday morning to Secretary Wallace at his suite in the Hotel Peabody. The Secretary very graciously received the group and for more than fifteen minutes discussed agricutural and business conditions among Negroes. "What does the Negro farmer think of the new plan for dividing payments between landlord and tenant and share-cropper?" as the question asked by Mr. Wallace.

The Secretary was assured that as rapidly as the Negro farmers are informed of the new division of payments for '38, they are greatly encouraged and will continue their full support of the AAA program.

THE SOUTH TODAY

The Federal Cotton Program

By JACK BRYAN

(Copyright, 1937, by Southern Newspaper Syndicate)

Editor's Note—Jack Bryan, who has had wide newspaper experience in the South, is agricultural writer for the Memphis Press-Scimitar. Mr. Bryan has devoted much study to the farm economy of the South, and is especially familiar with the cotton situation and the problems it involves.

Rough waters lie ahead on the course charted for cotton by Secretary of Agriculture Wallace in Memphis, Oct. 1.

Since that address was made, the government's crop estimate has soared 1,500,000 bales to a 17,573,000 bale crop, the second largest on record. This estimated yield hits an all-time high of 249 pounds, or half a bale, to the acre. With foreign consumption declining under pressure of war threats, a carry-over of from 8,500,000 to more than 10,000,000 bales is predicted for August of next year.

Marooned by the flood of cotton that has gushed forth from his over-abundant fields, remembering too clearly the 13,000,000 bale surplus and five-cent market of five years ago, the Southern cotton farmer has his eyes fixed on Washington to see what congress and the administration can devise to save him from the tragedy of another price collapse.

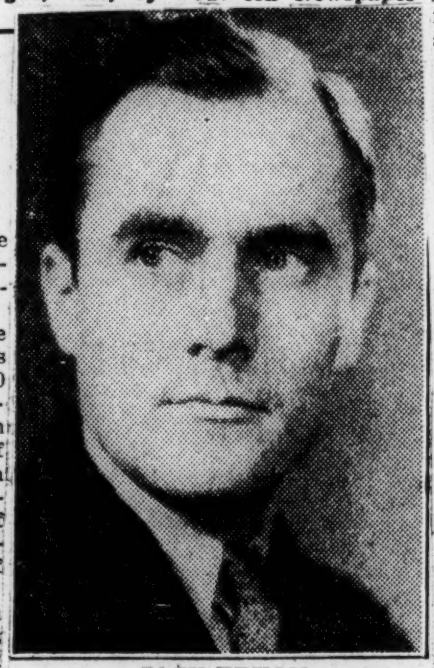
The administration's lines were laid down with fair precision in Secretary Wallace's pronouncements. Though designed for the long haul, the program is equipped to cope with emergencies.

Rejecting the counsels both of unrestricted production and of limited production for the domestic market only, the program steers a "middle course" between the opposing dangers of price collapse and abdication in the world markets.

Production Goal

Couched in a six-point program, the government's scheme centers on the maintenance of an "ever-normal warehouse" for cotton, counterpart of the "ever-normal granary" for food and feed crops. The lush years are to be played against the lean ones, offering a "stable supply of cotton in line with growing domestic and foreign requirements," and based on the "carry-over as well as the current crop."

Heart of the plan is an "allotted production goal" fixed year by year



JACK BRYAN

to provide ever normal supplies to foreign and domestic trade of "about 13 million bales, or more if they need it." Benefit payments would be made within the limits of each year's goal to all farmers who participate in the soil conservation program.

With a balanced budget now being insisted upon, however, Secretary Wallace has made it plain that such payments cannot continue to come out of the general treasury. Their most likely source, he suggested, is a revival of the processing tax, the assumption apparently being either that such a tax can be made unobjectionable to the supreme court or that the supreme court as now constituted is no longer "objectionable" to the tax.

World Competition

Significant in the program is its positive proposal to "serve notice on the world" that America intends to keep her world markets. Recognizing that our crop control has contributed in part, "but in part only," to increased foreign production and our loss of exports, Secretary Wallace now would keep our supply up to a point where the Southern farmer, supported by subsidy payments, could compete for world trade on its own terms. What will happen when other countries retaliate with similar subsidies is a bridge he did not try to cross, though he indicated that there are reasonable limits beyond which a processing tax cannot be pushed.

Coupled with the "allotted production goal" are three other points:

Continued improvement of soil fertility.

Increased domestic consumption through new uses for cotton and through greater spread of national purchasing power. (The past year's record home consumption of 8,000,000 bales the secretary credits directly to higher industrial wages, and sees the welfare of the wage worker and the cotton farmer as "all one show.")

Increased home food and feed crops on Southern farms.

The two remaining parts of the government's six-point program are reserved for use in an emergency —war, depression, or an excessive burden of bumper crops. These are stop-loss loans, to check price declines; and, as a last resort, to be used only with approval of an overwhelming majority of producers, marketing quotas, such as the Bankhead quota, on the entire crop.

"Loans," the secretary observed, "like strong stimulants, if used to excess, may kill instead of cure."

* * *

Onerous Cotton Pols

Employed "for any length of time," they produce onerous government cotton pools that upset the price structure, and prevent cotton from flowing freely into export channels.

Carefully administered, however, they have their useful place in a cotton program, to give farmers rather than speculators "the advantage of a price rise," "to check a price decline," and thus to stave off sudden catastrophe in an otherwise integrated program.

With an abnormal crop already being stored in the "ever-normal" warehouse" of American cotton, the government program calls for the application of the first emergency measure.

Up to now, the present 9-cent loan has fulfilled the function of a stop-loss loan. If the market sags too greatly under the weight of the new crop estimate, the government's course is to increase the loan as a further check on the price level.

Balanced Abundance Plan

This six-point program Secretary Wallace offers as one of "balanced abundance" instead of "scarcity." He presents it frankly as simply the most feasible plan at hand through which to do justice to a section discriminated against by a high industrial tariff.

He recognizes that, compelled to sell low and buy high, the people of the South "for a full century have

been forced by the tariff to a lower average standard of living than they would otherwise have had."

But, he adds, nothing can be done about that just now, "for the tariff is so deeply rooted in our economic

Against the time, therefore, that this one-sided balance is adjusted, he proposes year-by-year crop control attuned to foreign and domestic demand, and subsidy payments to bring the cotton farmer's income more in line with that of the nation. This, he believes, is the only practical avenue to that "parity income," which is the government's objective for all agricultural groups.

Letters To The Editor

A SUGGESTED COTTON CONTROL PLAN

Editor The Advertiser:

It is quite probable that there will be some kind of a cotton control program for 1938, and it appears that the old AAA base (1928-1932) for allotment will be used. This base is antiquated and not at all applicable to the present-day cotton farmer. The old AAA program did not control production and no similar program will ever control. No program that exempts a part of a crop and allows the remainder to be taxed and sold will ever control production. Aside from production control the old program was very unfair. It did not take into consideration the man who some years ago left the farm for industrial employment, but who recently lost his job and had to return to the farm because he knew no other kind of work. Neither did it consider the young man just grown and just married starting out to make a living and rear a family as any young man is expected to do. If he did not inherit land with cotton rights he was left out cold. There were several young men in this community in this condition. One was given 40 pounds tax free cotton. Some income for a family! Nor did it consider the man who some years ago, through foresight and good judgment reduced his cotton acreage and began diversified farming. One Senator has said that the next control program would probably be on an acreage basis. This would not be fair because all acres are not alike. All acres do not produce the same amounts. All men can not buy the same amount of fertilizers and control the same amount of labor. It is needless to mention the many unfair practices of the old program which would be intensified with a new program of similar scope.

The only fair way to allot cotton production is to determine how many bales the United States needs and how many men will make this cotton. Then divide the number of bales by the number of men and give each man an equal share. Then grade the cotton farmers by units terming one man and his hoe force one unit. If a man has large children whose labor equals that of a man, or of two men, then he may be classed as a two or three unit farmer as the case may be. If a cotton farmer employ labor his units should be allotted according to his labor.

Then give each man a gin certificate early in the year showing his classification, the number of bales or pounds he can gin. This will determine not later than the first day of June just how many bales will be ginned and will make a Government estimate unnecessary, and will eliminate all the fraudulent practices charged to the old program. When the farmer goes to the gin he presents his allotment certificate to the ginner who records the date, the number of the bale, the weight thereon, signs the card and returns it to the farmer. When the farmer hauls his next bale he presents his card and the ginner approves it as above, and so on until the certificate is exhausted. Let it be unlawful for a ginner to gin cotton without the necessary certificate. Certificates could be transferable as this would not change the total number of bales expected to be ginned.

10-3-37

A certificate similar to the following would suffice:

COTTON ALLOTMENT CERTIFICATE—1938

This certifies that John Doe, of District 5, County, State, by reason of himself and-or ....., ..., a laborer, is classed as a ( ) unit cotton farmer and is allotted ( ) pounds of lint cotton.

Date .....

Signed .....
District Agent

Address .....

Date	Bale No.	Weight	Ginner
.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....

Should it become generally known that the United States expects to produce less than 12,000,000 bales, foreign countries would increase their production until we would lose the remainder of our port trade. It is estimated that we have about 3,000,000 cotton farmers. With a 12,000,000 allowance there would be four bales per unit. This plan would be fair to everybody and would absolutely control production, and would prevent the big man from "gobbling up" the advantages of a control program. Everybody would be satisfied with this plan except the man who has been getting and expects to continue to get a lion's share.

Under our form of Government every man is supposed to have equal rights as to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. One man should not be given by law more opportunity than another regardless of who he is, where he is, or what he has been doing. Because one man has more intelligence, more energy, more money with which to buy good land and fertilizer is no good reason why he should be given more opportunity than some less fortunate man. Every one should have a chance. Occasionally a father is a poor farmer and makes little cotton, but when the boys get old enough to take the lead they make real farmers. They should have an equal chance. Frequently a widow left with the responsibility of farming a living with her children makes much better success than the father. Should her production be held down to that of the husband? She should have an equal opportunity.

The big cotton farmer who was really benefited by the old program is the one who is responsible for the cotton surplus, and the one who makes a control program seem necessary. The small farmer who makes two or three bales is not responsible for the surplus. Is there any justice in penalizing a man for something he did not do? The farmers who produce the surplus are the ones who should take care of the surplus. Under the old program the one-bale man was cut with the same percentage as the 10-bale man. The 10-bale man can better afford to have his income cut $100 than the one-bale man can lose $1. If there is to be any inequality the underprivileged man is the one who should be given the most opportunity. If the poorer people were given more opportunity, more advantages, more encouragement they would soon be a better class of people, and would not bear down so heavily on our literacy rating. As people make financial progress they make intellectual progress.

If those who may have to do with production control would visit the rural schools, see the children come in shivering and half-clothed and poorly nourished they could not conscientiously reduce the production of the poorer class farmer beyond a fair average. It is true that many of this class of farmers are careless, short in energy, limited in business acumen, but for many generations they have been under-privileged and have not always got a square deal. It takes encouragement for one to put out his best efforts. If the higher-ups were thrown with these people, and could learn them as the man who has to work with them, help them and advise them, they very likely would be more willing to equalize opportunity.

A. D. COWLES, M. D.
Ramer, Ala.

* * * *

CITY HALL DEDICATION

Editor The Advertiser:

As chairman of the general committee on the City Hall dedication, may I express through your columns warm appreciation to those who contributed so much toward making this occasion such an outstanding event in the history of our city.

I particularly wish to thank you and The Advertiser for the very splendid manner in which you cooperated in giving publicity to Greater Montgomery Day.

There was such general and wholehearted response on the part of all who participated in this event, it is hard to specify particular individuals. I do wish, however, to especially thank the Montgomery merchants, the speakers on the program, the Shrine Band, the Sidney Lanier Band, the State Teachers College Septette, Mr. George Preiss, Jr., and his corps of assistants, and Station WSFA for the valuable contribution which they made.

BENJAMIN A. TAYLOR,
General Chairman, Dedication Committee.
Oct. 1, 1937.

Agriculture—1937
6
Condition of.

General

President's Farm Tenancy Committee Report Draws Attack From Delta Group

Chamber of Commerce Urges Program Upon Basis Of "Action by Individual With Aid Of the Government"

Special to The Commercial Appeal

GREENVILLE, Miss., April 10.—Taking issue with President Roosevelt's special farm tenancy committee's report and terming it "unsound," the Delta Chamber of Commerce has adopted the report of a committee "recommending action by the individual (tenant) with the assistance of the government" rather than the Roosevelt committee proposal of "action by the government for the individual."

The report adopted by the Delta Chamber in the form of an analysis of the national committee's report follows:

"At the outset, we wish to concur wholeheartedly with the 'supplementary statement of Henry C. Taylor of the Farm Foundation.' The statement referred to which was submitted by Henry C. Taylor, a member of the president's committee on farm tenancy, is as follows:

"None of the proposals in this report should be carried forward other than on a strictly experimental basis until their merits have been thoroughly tested. The proposals contain the possibility of doing more harm than good to the farming population of the United States, particularly in reducing thrift, by making entry into landed ownership too easy and by increasing competition in agriculture by encouraging people to be farmers who should enter other occupations. Too much encouragement to enter upon farming will make it all the more difficult to secure parity incomes for farmers. There should be a clear line drawn between a farm tenancy policy and a poor relief policy and they should be separately administered.'

Danger Is Seen

"The first part of the report of the president's committee is taken up with a statement of the problem under consideration and factual findings of the committee. The committee made as wide and as comprehensive a study of the problem submitted to them as humanly possible within the limited period of time allotted. It is evident that a vast amount of work was done in gathering the data and a tremendous amount of effort expended in analyzing and considering the matters and facts embraced in the data accumulated.

"The committee's interpretation of the facts revealed in this study and their recommendations for action, however, call for a program so theoretical, impractical and unsound that it would not only defeat its avowed purpose, but, further, be a serious threat, danger and menace to the whole of American agriculture.

"It is the committee's basic approach to the problem that is fundamentally unsound. The foundation of their proposal is action by the government for the individual. The foundation of our recommendations is action by the individual with the assistance of the government. It is a matter of who is to take the initiative and assume the financial responsibility of making a success of the individual's life—the government or himself?

Two Plans Compared

"To clearly show the diametric opposition of the two approaches the committee's and our own, we set forth briefly a comparison of the salient points in the program recommended by each:

"1. SELECTION OF BENEFICIARIES.

"The committee recommends that the Farm Security Corporation, a governmental agency created for this purpose, select disadvantaged farm workers 'on the basis of reputation for integrity, industry, thrift, necessary experience, health and other qualities.'

"We recommend that the individual select himself by saving from his earnings a small down payment to be made as evidence that he has the desirable qualities mentioned above.

"2. SELECTION OF LAND AND IMPROVEMENTS.

"The committee would have the FSC 'acquire suitable farm land, subdivide or otherwise create from it various types of holdings recommended, and provide for requisite improvements.'

"We propose that the individual select his own farm to suit his own desires as to locality, type, size (within reasonable limits), etc.; decide on the improvements he wants and can afford; negotiate for the purchase and submit his proposal to the FSC. After due examination of the farm to determine its fitness and his likelihood of success, FSC would advance the necessary funds, above the small down payment, and spread payments over a long period of time with lowest practical interest rate.

"3. OWNERSHIP OF FARM.

"Under the committee's plan, ownership of the farm would remain in the FSC for a 'trial lease period not to exceed five years,' followed by a supervisory period of 20 years to insure the public interest in proper use of the land. Under no circumstances could the federal tenant become an owner before the expiration of these two probationary periods. However, payments could be spread over an additional 20 years if desired.

"Under our proposal the purchaser would acquire title immediately. True, his initial equity would be small but the farm would be his—to pay for as soon as he could, to leave to his family if he died, and from which he would gain the pride of ownership and stability that is the avowed purpose of this program. Safeguards as to the proper use of land can be thrown about these loans.

"4. OPERATION OF FARM.

"The committee proposes that operation of the farm would be under strict control and supervision of the FSC for duration of both probationary periods of five and 20 years.

"We propose that the individual operate his own farm and that he be given detailed assistance by the county agent on the essentials of good farm management. We recommend that the county agent's office be so expanded as to include this service.

"On the one hand, the government selects the individual, the land and improvements; owns the farm and runs it. Success or failure is not the individual's, but the government's—it has assumed the final responsibility for his success or failure.

"On the other hand, the individual selects himself, his land and improvements; makes his down payment; owns his farm and runs it, with governmental assistance and advice. He has final responsibility for his success or failure.

"As we understand it, the purpose of this program is not to enable the federal government to own and operate farms in order to provide its tenants an 'abundant life' out of the public treasury, but to provide an opportunity for the worthy individual farm worker, through more liberal federal assistance than is now available, to acquire his own farm, operate it successfully, and enjoy all of the social, spiritual and economic benefits that go with farm ownership.

"The federal farming system, proposed by the tenancy commission, is not only contrary to the stated purpose of the program but would also deal the whole of American agriculture a blow below the belt just as it is getting on its feet, with federal assistance. FSC, in fact, would be a gigantic, federally supported, land owning corporation, engaged in the business of production of agricultural commodities at the expense of taxpayers of America, charging its losses to the public, and giving its profits to the tenants. These favored tenants of the government would be competitors of the tenants of those unfortunate individuals owning their own land and risking their own capital in the venture. The establishment of such a farming corporation would be unjust to persons whose money is invested in farms. The establishment of such a class of federal tenancy would create dissatisfaction amongst tenants operating the lands of individuals. The whole scheme would be doomed to certain failure, would accomplish no good during its existence and would certainly promote discontent, dissatisfaction and create the greatest possible dissension and strife between landlords and tenants operating without the benefit of federal financing. No one engaged in private farming—landlord, operator, tenant or day laborer—can compete with the federal government in the farming business. The destructiveness of such a program would be limited only by the appropriation available for its execution.

Foundation Is Given

"The report, recognizing the fact that there would be some limit to the appropriation, proposes, in order to further expand the scope of its operations with the money available, that the FSC also lease farm lands, divide it into various types of holdings, and sub-lease them to selected federal tenants under FSC supervision. This, of course, has the same objections as the outright purchase plan and many more—opportunity for favoritism in selection of properties, unsoundness of government improvements on private lands, etc.

"We have endeavored to state our differences with and objections to the fundamental principles of the tenancy committee's report. There are two other factors that must constitute the foundation of any successful program:

"(1) There are two classes of farms—the small family size farm and the larger commercial type. Each has its own field and must stay in it to be successful. The small farm must produce primarily the food for its family and, secondarily, crops to be sold for cash. With the commercial type of farm, the reverse is true. The former cannot compete with the latter in commercial crops and this is becoming more apparent daily. A sound tenancy program must confine its activities to the family size farm. In commercial farming there is no more reason to expect every worker to own his own farm than every clerk his store or every mechanic his factory. There is no justification for considering the agricultural industry as something entirely separate and apart and different from any other.

Living Wage Necessary

"(2) The net agricultural income must be sufficient to support the desired standard of living for farmers. This means that agriculture must receive its proportionate part of the national income and further that great additional emphasis be placed on research on new uses for farm products, scientific and more efficient methods of farming, development of foreign markets, etc.

"Returning to the tenancy report, we wish to submit the following observations regarding some of the recommendations made:

"(a) As to the selection of the personnel of the board of directors of the FSA and FSC, other than the secretary and under-secretary of agriculture, we feel that civil service regulations should not apply and that the secretary should be allowed the widest possible latitude and discretion, and permitted to select the best fitted and qualified men available.

"(b) The method of selecting these so-called 'purchasers' is too vague and permits too much latitude to FSC. These so-called purchasers are in fact simply federal tenants, who for the first five years must farm directly as tenants, and who for the next maximum period of 20 years are nothing more or less than tenants operating upon property which they do not own, which they may not devise or convey, over which the only act of ownership which they may commit is that of cultivating the soil and harvesting the crops, for which annual privilege they must make an annual payment.

"(c) Under the caption 'Types of Holdings to be Created,' it is stated: 'In general the aim should be the establishment of family sized farms. Families vary greatly, however, in their capacity for independ- should be adjusted to these differences.' This provision would seem

...dicate that during the 20-year period in which the so-called purchaser is attempting tthe purchase of his land, his alndlord in fact, the FSC, shall have the right to, from year to year, adjust the size of the holdings ratably as the number of workers in the family may increase or decrease by the arrival at working oge of children, or the death or members of the family, or the acquisition of additional members of the family by adoption or marriage. Few families indeed go through a period of 20 years without change in the working force sufficient to operate a given acreage. This scheme is visionary, theoretical, impractical and unsound. The same thing is true of the provisions which limit the right of one of these persons attempting purchase to pass the property on to his descendents. The whole form of tenancy proopsed in the recommendatio is abhorrent to the principle and theory of American citizenship. The suggestion that the governmentwill not aid an individual in the purchase of land, the acquisition and establishment of a farm home, unless that person will first apprentice or indent himself to a federal landlord, by agreement first that he will farm as a tenant foor five years; secondly, that if during his apprenticeship his services as an entered apprentice are found satisfactory to his landloard he may be advanced to the degree of fellowcraft and given an additional period of servitude of not less than 20 years in which, if he complies with all of the terms and conditions of the contract replete with red tape, and makes the required annual payments, he will be allowed the proud privilege of farming the land he is attempting to acquire so long as the size and health of his family will permit him to operate it, with the privilege given his landlord to adjust from timet o time the size of the holdings to fit the size of the family, and with the knoweldge that during all of the 20-year period in which he invests annually his earnings, he has not acquired a title in fee, he has acquired no property that he may deal with as his own, he being even iwthout the privilege, under the recommendations of the committee, to pass the property on to his heirs. We repeat that when analyzed in the light of practicability and its real operating effect, the scheme is fantastic and obhorrent, as well as repugnant to the theories and principles upon which the nation has been built.

Appropriations Asked

"(d) Under the caption, 'Financing the New Policy' it is recommended that Congress make availabela definite sum each year for a number of years to be employed in the purchasing or leasing and subdividing and improving of homestead units. The committee, being conscious of the very grave danger in carrying out their recommendations, suggest 'for the first year or two itis recommended that these operations be financed directly by appropriations. Initiation of the program on a wider scale would be unwise because of the obvious problems incurred in new developments.' Recognizing the 'obvious problems incurred in new developments,' we feel that the committee should not have made the general recommendation for the unlimited purchose of land. It is a well known fact that Resettlement Administration, now functioning as a division of the Department of Agriculture, has, as a matter of fact, acquired many thousands of acres of land, and is now engaged in improving these lands and in attempting to settle them along the lines recommended by the president's committee. Why, then, should the Congress not be content with observing the results of these experiments rather than the appropriation of millions of dollars for the acquisition of thousands of acres of additional land before the result of the experiments now being made are known? It is suggested also under this same caption that 'to deevlop the program too rapidly might stimulate speculation. This result is less likely, however, under a system of federal purchases than a system of liberal credit for indiivdual purchases.' We are unable to concur in the conclusion of the president's committee, unless the committee, by the use of the words 'liberal credit,' intends to imply an unlimited credit. The same agency which wolud administer the credit to be extended would also administer the purchase of land under the program proposed by the president's committee Why should it be felt that the FSC would be more liberal in its loans, thereby stimulating speculation, than it would bein its purchase payments? To the contrary, we feel that a lending agency, charged with responsibility of advancing funds witha reasonable prospect of their collection, would be more careful and less liberal than would be a similar organization provided with abundant funds and charged with the duty of buying lands outright.

"(e) We are unable to concur with the recommendation of the president's committee with respect to state action, looking toward the 'improvement of contracts and landlord-tenant relationship.' It is our judgment that a contract between a landlord and tenant is, in effect, a unilateral contract. It is one which the tenant can require the landlord to comply with, but which the landlord cannot enforce compliance on the part of the tenant. The suggestion that tenants be required to compensate landlords in various instances is impractical. The tenant is not coercible. No court could compel the tenant to perform his contract should he see fit not to do so. Certainly no landlord should be required to compensate a tenant for improvements put upon the landlord's property without the consent of the landlord and without an agreement on the part of the landlord to compensate the tenant therefore, and if there is such an agreement for compensation it is necessarily evidenced by a contract, written or verbal, and can be enforced by the tenant to the extent of the solvency of the landlord. Much is said in the report of the president's committee regarding insecurity of tenure on the part of tenants. Members of our committee do not know of any instance in which a landlord has dispossessed a tenant so long as that tenant has performed satisfactorily the proper and legitimate obligations imposed upon him under the terms of this tenancy. We question the advisability of such state legislation as is recommended by the president's committee.

"Concluding, the members of our committee reaffirm their confidence in the farm tenancy program heretofore indorsed by the Delta Chamber of Commerce, and believe that the measures suggested in that recommendation embody all that should be undertaken by the federal government at the present moment. We earnestly request Congress to exercise the utmost caution in dealing with a problem that is the result of social and economic forces at work throughout a century. Finally, we urge that the act be drawn so as to definitely specify just what should and should not be done by the agency administering it, so that the will of Congress will prevail in its execution.

"Respectfully submitted,

"SUBCOMMITTEE ON TENANCY —

Rust Picker Saves $10 Bale In Harvesting

MEMPHIS, TENN., July 23.—(AP)—John Mack Rust said today a test of the mechanical cotton picker they invented had revealed a saving of $10.72 a bale underhand-picking costs.

The test, they said, was conducted last season, on the plantation of John Fargason, near Clarksdale, Miss.

The brothers said the cost of running the tractor and cotton-picking machine were checked and double-checked against the cost of hand-picking.

The average sale price per bale of hand-picked cotton was $65.90 while the average for machine picked was $65.50, they said, a difference of only 40 cents a bale, while the average cost per bale of picking by hand was $16.12 while the average for machine picking was $5.

John Rust said the machine picking cost included "fuel, oil, upkeep, interest and depreciation on the investment, as well as a good wage for the operator."

Ray Kimbell of the Rust Company said the government would not reveal figures on cotton picked by the Rust machine at the Delta Experiment Station at Stoneville, Miss., because there were no other sponsors of pickers competing in the tests there.

SOUTHERN CHARACTERISTICS

1. The agriculture of the South is characterized by the large number of small farm operators. Of the 6,812,350 farm operators in the United States, according to the 1935 Agricultural Census, 2,547,952, or 37.4 percent, were located in the 11 Southern States. However, the average size of a farm in the South was only 74 acres, while in the other states it was 203 acres.

2. The agriculture of the South is characterized by an average small cash farm income. The average cash farm income in the 11 Southern States in 1935 amounted to $462, while the average cash farm income for the other 37 states amounted to $1,189. The total cash income of farmers in the Southern States represented only 18.8 percent of the total cash farm income for the nation.

3. The agriculture of the South is characterized by a small average investment in land, buildings, livestock, and equipment.

The average value per farm of farm land, farm buildings, livestock, and farm implements for the 11 Southern States was $3,317, while the average value per farm for the other 37 states was $12,647. The value of land and buildings per farm was $2,818 in the Southern States and $10,551 in the non-Southern States. The average value per farm of livestock in the Southern States was $343, as compared with $1,345 in the non-Southern States. The average value per farm of implements in the Southern States was $156, as compared with $751 in the non-Southern States. These figures indicate that the average farm in the South represents a much smaller business investment than the average farm in the rest of the United States.

4. The agriculture of the South is characterized by the production of specialty cash crops. Throughout most of the area, cotton still occupies the dominant role in the farm economy. Furthermore, tobacco, fruit, and truck crops are also largely produced on a specialty cash crop basis. While there are a number of areas where diversified farming is practiced, such areas are more the exception than the rule.

5. The agriculture of the South is characterized by a small average production of livestock and livestock products. In 1935 only 24.8 percent of the average farm cash income in the 11 Southern States was derived from livestock, while 69.1 percent of the average cash income of farmers in the rest of the United States was derived from this source.

6. The agriculture of the South is characterized by a large amount of worn-out and eroded land. The emphasis given to the production of cash crops with the absence of livestock products has been largely responsible for this condition.

7. The agriculture of the South is characterized by a high proportion of tenant farmers. According to the 1935 Agricultural Census, 53.9 percent of the farmers in the 11 Southern States were tenant farmers, as compared with 35 percent of the farmers in the other 37 states.

8. The agriculture of the South is characterized by a large number of Negro farm operators. 28.2 percent of the farm operators in the South were Negroes, while Negroes represented only 3.2 percent of the farm operators in the other 37 states.

9. The agriculture of the South is characterized by a high rural illiteracy rate. According to the 1930 Census, 15.1 percent of the rural population in the 11 Southern States over 21 years of age was illiterate; whereas only 4 percent of the rural population in the other 37 states was illiterate.

10. The agriculture of the South is characterized by a merchant and landlord system of financing crop production which not only increases the farmers' costs of production, but also keeps many farmers in a state of dependence.—J. G. Knapp, in Journal of Farm Economics, May 1937.

Agriculture-1937
Condition of.

General

OUTLINE THREE WAYS TO SOLVE TENANCY PROBLEM IN SOUTH

By William Bennett
United Press Staff Correspondent

MONTGOMERY, Jan. 7.—The Deep South's recommendations to cure the evils of the sharecropping system, backbone of the cotton belt's farming methods since the War Between the States, were in the hands of President Roosevelt's farm tenancy committee today.

Five separate plans submitted by planters, tenants and agricultural leaders of 12 Southern states in a precedent breaking round-table discussion, were taken to Washington today by Dr. L. C. Gray, assistant Federal resettlement administrator and member of the President's group, who presided over yesterday's historic session.

He announced the proposals, together with similar suggestions gathered in four other regional conferences over the nation this week, would be submitted to the entire tenancy committee in Washington by Jan. 15, which would then draft its recommendations to solve the tenancy problem and submit them to the President by Feb. 1.

Sets Precedent

Yesterday was believed to be the first time in Dixie's history that plantation owners sat down with sharecroppers and farm union organizers, white men with Negroes, to discuss the tenant farmer problem in an effort to find some method of ending the farming system that holds tenants in many sections in virtual peonage.

Representatives were present from Florida, Georgia, North and South Carolina, Alabama, Arkansas, Tennessee, Mississippi and Louisiana.

Most detailed proposal to aid the sharecropper acquire his own farm and lift his status in the economic scale was submitted by Gov. Bibb Graves and Alabama's agricultural officials.

Under it, the present supervisory and educational functions of the Resettlement Administration would be transferred to the extension service of the Department of Agriculture as a "Farm Supervision Division" acting as a field administrative force, with an annual Federal appropriation not exceeding $20,000,000.

Loans Would Be Made

The money, through the Production Credit Administration, would be loaned to farmers for the purchase of livestock and equipment.

An additional appropriation of $50,000,000 would be used, through the Federal Land Bank, as a revolving fund and a capital investment fund for lending to farmers on long terms at low interest rates for purchasing farms.

Farmers taking part in the program would be put on probation for two years, planting under supervision of agricultural experts of the service, before loans for farms and equipment were completed.

White Johnson, secretary of the Alabama Sharecroppers' Union, declared the tenant farmer could become independent if the Government would loan him the money to buy teams, mules and equipment, not necessarily farm land. He said "cost of production" prices for farm produce must be guaranteed, the Frazer-Lemke act permitting refinancing of mortgages at low interest rates should be passed, and that farmer-labor cooperatives, with collective bargaining principles should be supported.

THE NORTH AND TENANCY

So much is being said about the South's tenancy situation these days, that it is a relief to find a famed writer of the North placing the blame upon shoulders where it belongs. It is an unpleasant picture the South must witness when painted with bold strokes. Jay Franklin in his nationally published syndicate column considers the problem the most important confronting the nation in 1937. He paints the situation in its darkest colors. "The Cotton Belt," he says, "is where millions of Americans—white and black—are living as economic coolies. It has been described by experts as 'the slum of America,' a breeding place of disease, ignorance and social savagery. There is where Huey Long found his followers. There is where social upheaval on the order of the 'Mexican revolution' is possible, most of all now that Leon Trotsky is making his headquarters below the Rio Grande. There is where human beings are condemned to live under conditions which we would scorn for our dogs."

As to what is to be done about it Mr. Franklin continues: "The easy Northern way is to breed a monstrosity, describe, and then condemn it. Thus, the Yankees first sold the South its slaves, then sent Harriet Beecher Stowe to write 'Uncle Tom's Cabin' and then fought the Civil war. Today, the Northern 'radicals' wax indignant about the conditions in the Delta—and conditions are terrifying—forgetting that the North made the South what it is today. Northerners moved in after the Civil war, got title to Southern natural resources, railroads and lands. The banks moved in and the tariff choked down, and the South has been writhing in a social and economic agony ever since. The North helped create the problem and the North must help solve it.

"The easy Northern way is to condemn the planters and to recall the bloodhounds and Simon Legrees to the public mind. Yet the planters are themselves slaves of the system which the North created and forced upon the Cotton Belt. Very few people deliberately torture or oppress their fellowmen unless it is the only way of survival. The economic dog-fight in Dixie finds the planters bearing down on the tenants, but it also finds the banks bearing down on the planters, and the whole system is the prisoner of tariff and financial monopolies which make economic cruelty a necessity."

Concluding his vigorous appraisal of the situation, and emphasizing the magnitude of the problem Mr. Franklin concludes his article in these words: "One thing is certain: More than a mere change of ownership is required. A whole system must be changed and agriculture must again become a way of life in the South and not a mere lifeboat for desperately necessitous men. No matter if it costs as much as a major war, the solution would be worth while. For, no matter what happens to us in the way of co-operatives and collective farms and state socialism, no nation can long endure such social and economic strains as have accumulated in the cotton South during the three generations of the Republican era which Roosevelt has ended."

Here is such a frank and unevasive presentation that it ought to make every patriot, whether in North or South, eager to help remove the discriminations, the minor tyrannies, the economic millstones which have oppressed the South to drain away its wealth and made it increasingly difficult to create more wealth under the economic yoke that succeeded the political yoke imposed after the Civil war.

Cure Or Quackery?

While we are all talking about farm tenancy and sharecroppers there is danger that we will forget that tenancy is largely a symptom of what ails agriculture as a whole. And granted that we could hit upon some magic formula to solve the problem of tenancy overnight, what next?

Let us assume that every tenant became a farm proprietor. Let us assume that they all became as competent farmers as the average proprietor today. Would the problem of the farm be solved? Would we all be happy as kings? Would social discontent disappear?

To ask the questions is almost to answer them. The former tenants would find that as farm owners they are:

(1) Still subjected to the pillage of the protective tariff under which they must sell in a competitive world market and buy in a protected monopoly market.

(2) Still under the necessity of competing in the money market for capital with urban industries which are connected by interlocking directorates and other common interests with the privileged groups that still control most of the lending of money.

(3) Still under the handicaps that always attach under our financial system to industries with slow turnover of capital, heavy investment in fixed capital per unit of sales and low operating ratio. Farms, railroads, utilities and the like which can only turn their capital in one or more years can never enjoy equality with industries that turn their capital more than once a year until our credit system is adjusted so that the costs and rewards of capital will have some relation to the social utility of the capital employed. As long as the cost of capital is determined in a scramble for the available funds in the money market the quick turnover, luxury, speculative and parasite trades will tend to be more lucrative than the basic enterprises.

It is because of these handicaps upon agriculture that the percentage of tenant farmers has been increasing. It is also because of these handicaps that the plight and discontent of farmers in such states as North Dakota has at times assumed forms as militant as ever have appeared in areas where tenancy is far more prevalent. Incidentally these handicaps are not new. The unbalance of agriculture and urban industry has appeared in all civilizations with grievous results to all. It follows, then, that in adopting measures to help the tenant and to diminish tenancy our hopes of success will be greater to the degree that we shape such measures in a manner to meet and overcome the present discrepancies of rural and urban economies.

It will be just too bad if the present public interest in farm tenure should be

GRAVES TELLS HIS PLAN TO AID FARM TENANTS

President's Commission On Problem Ends Session At Montgomery

shunted off into policies that mean no more than the application of poultices, plasters and soothing syrup to the sick child of tenancy in the farm family. What the baby needs is a cure, and any remedy that will cure the baby must be the kind of remedy that will help the whole farm family.

Naturally the interests and groups that wish to perpetuate the economic privileges and discriminations that burden agriculture would be only too glad to support a little quackery, even expensive quackery, in the treatment of tenancy, if that would divert public attention from the agragian question as a whole, and leave untouched the many gigantic grafts that now feed upon the farm.

Views Of The Commercial Appeal Readers

SOLVING TENANCY

To The Commercial Appeal:

Surely you get many letters from all kinds of fellows setting forth their views on solving the farm tenancy problem, but let an average man give his views.

While every sort of business, including some that tinges of illegality, has been able to borrow money at a very low rate of interest, farmers have always been penalized almost to the point of usury. In fact, it might be enlightening to you to know that sharecroppers, tenants and thousands of small borrowers have been charged 10 per cent premium for loans as well as the regular legal rate which the various states permit. Now, if you want to check this statement I will be glad to have you ask me to cite you. Now, if this is a healtry state of affairs, I would like to have it defended. Tear down these old interest fences, put the farmer of whatever type he may be on equal ground with other kinds of business.

Now, why is it that farm land has not enjoyed the burst of prosperity that other business has had? I refer more especially to the prices of farm lands. Why should there still be a very small variation in the prices of farm land, from that at the bottom of the depression? I say to you it is because of the bondage which the farmers are in, mainly relative to the excess interest they have to pay for the use of funds to properly carry on their operations.

Having talked to many large land owners, I am convinced that a very large per cent of them would be glad to sell out their large holdings in small tracts if it could be arranged in some satisfactory manner. They believe that land should be owned by those who work it, and in the past few years this idea has been growing very rapidly.

Here is the solution of the problem, and it goes hand in hand with the labor problem. However, before going into the plan, may I drop this thought: That millions that have been paid out in relief the past few years, with the millions which have gone into so-called improvements that were never needed, and never will be needed, each and every one of the recipients of this bounty could have made a decent payment on a little home in the country.

All right, if the poor overworked laborer of the city wants to become independent, let's help him. Let the government give him a chance to buy a piece of land on such easy terms that he can pay for it, or if he becomes too worthless to pay for it someone who is some account will pick it up and pay back the money which was loaned on the project.

I have never thought we were a country suffering with the disease of overproduction, but that the trouble was in the distribution. We have always had plenty of people who needed all this country could produce, either to clothe or feed them, and with all that has been done I still believe I am right. Surely there is nothing so pitiful as to see hungry little ones crying for food, when we have millions of idle acres which should have no other mission than to feed the hungry and clothe the naked.

Now, as to the personnel for directors of this great corporation, let's leave the theoretical and the radicals and get a group of sober minded practical men who live next to this condition, who have grown up with it and would properly administer the terms under which it shall operate. A group of men who would make every dollar count, and be always bipartisan politically.

J. E. M'CORD.

Tupelo, Miss.

The Commercial Appeal invites its readers to comment freely upon its editorial opinions and to express their views upon public questions in this department. As evidence of good faith writers are required to inclose their names and addresses with their letters, but by request initials or a pseudonym will be printed instead of the name of the writer.

HOMES FOR FARM TENANTS

The bill introduced in the house by Representative Carl Vinson, dean of the Georgia congressional delegation, provides for a reasonable and sound method by which the federal government may aid worthwhile farm tenants and croppers to become owners of family-sized farms, and, under guidance and direction of experts in farming activities and the marketing of resulting products, be able to "pay out" within a reasonable length of time.

The measure, which is designed as a sound advance toward a solution of the farm tenancy and cropper problem, authorizes an appropriation of $50,000,000 for the first fiscal year and the same amount for each year thereafter for ten years. The act would be administered by the secretary of agriculture, who, through his assistants and experts, would purchase tracts of land and cut them up into family-sized farms, equipped with necessary buildings and farming appurtenances. Then carefully selected families would become the beneficiaries of this aid to independence.

Emphasizing the "far-reaching problems still with us for which democracy must find solutions," President Roosevelt has cited as an example "the prevalence of an un-American type of tenant farming," adding:

I do not suggest that every farm family has the capacity to earn a living on its own farm. But many thousands of tenant farmers—indeed most of them—with some financial assistance and with some advice and training, can be made self-supporting on land which can eventually belong to them. The nation would be wise to offer them that chance, instead of permitting them to go along as they do now, year after year, with neither future security as tenants, nor hope of ownership of their homes nor expectation of bettering the lot of their children.

"Farm tenancy has long been one of our major problems," Representative Vinson declared. Continuing, he says:

The need of an act of this kind is obvious to anyone familiar with the facts. More than 42 per cent of all the farmers of this country are tenants of some kind or another. Every agricultural section has some tenancy. It ranges from around 8 per cent in the New England states to more than 45 per cent in parts of the corn belt and a high of nearly 72 per cent in some parts of the cotton belt. In the state of Georgia, for example, latest available figures show that of the 255,598 farms in the state 174,390, or 68.2 per cent, are operated by tenants or sharecroppers. A total of 1,418,514 people live on all the farms in Georgia and of this number 967,864 of them are tenants or sharecroppers. These people tend more than 61 per cent of all the crop land in the state, and yet the annual per capita farm value of crops for tenants and sharecroppers for the state of Georgia in a fairly good year like 1929 was only $148.89. The object of my bill is to change the status of present farm operators from tenants and sharecroppers to landowners.

Recognizing the indisputable fact that agriculture is the basic industry of this state, from which wealth must flow, we are confronted with the startling fact that 68.2 per cent of the farm families of the state produce less than $150 per year to contribute to that wealth.

That there is ample room for the best of that 68.2 per cent to do better is evidenced by the fact that the state imports more than $100,000,000 worth of food and feedstuffs every year. A large part of this huge sum could and would go to these Georgia farmers if they were given an opportunity to own farms of their own, reap the benefits of their labor under direction of competent advisers in growing and marketing, and thus become citizens of substantial worth to their respective communities, instead of a hopeless, helpless, nomadic-like people who wander from farm to farm, hoping for, yet never finding, any improvement in their economic condition.

Britisher Sees Little Hope In Tenancy Act

Charges America With International Law Violation

SWARTHMORE, Pa.—(ANP)—Nothing he had ever seen in Africa is as horrible as the life of the Negro sharecropper in the deep South, said Sir John H. Harris, former member of the British Parliament, in an address to the world conference of the Society of Friends Wednesday night of last week.

In permitting debt bondage to oppress tenant farmers, the United States has violated an agreement it signed at an international conference on forced labor debt bondage and slavery at Geneva in 1926, the Englishman charged.

Harris, also secretary of the Anti-Slavery and Aborigines Society of Great Britain, recently completed a 2,000 mile trip through the Mississippi Valley. He said he noted an improvement in the attitude of the white race toward sharecroppers which may lead to voluntary reforms. He attributed existing conditions to the low price of cotton and usury.

"I don't believe you'll get a real change in the South until you get international cooperation in establishing a stable price for cotton," he said.

Harris doubted that the proposal by which the federal government would buy land and then sell it back to sharecroppers on long terms payments would be of any benefit.

Agriculture - 1937
Condition of.

General

THE SOUTH TODAY

What About Farm Tenancy Now?

By GOULD BEECH

(Copyright, 1937, by Southern Newspaper Syndicate)

Editor's Note—Gould Beech, after serving on the staff of the Anniston (Ala.,) Star, was associate editor of the Montgomery (Ala.,) Advertiser. Mr. Gould left the Advertiser this year to accept a Rosenwald fellowship for study of economics and sociology at the University of North Carolina.

Some two years ago that comparatively small group of Southerners who are familiar with the implications of tenancy were fairly intoxicated by the passage of the original Bankhead tenant farm bill by the senate. This bill provided for a potential expenditure of a billion dollars for the purchase of farms to be resold to tenants on long-term contracts. Folowing the failure of the house to pass the bill, it went through a series of emasculations, and toward the end of the last session of congress it emerged as the Bankhead-Jones bill and was finally passed by both houses. Meanwhile it had shrunk to the point that only $10,000,000 is provided for the first year of the program, with a promise of an increase to $35,000,000 the second year and thence to $50,000,000. Those who were intoxicated at the first prospects have been sobered in proportion to the shrinkage.

Heartening as the bill may be as the first direct gesture on the part of congress, the depressing inadequacy of it is inescapable. According to Secretary Wallace, an outlay of $50,000,000 would be hardly enough to take care of the normal increase in tenancy.

The question that thoughtful students are now asking is: Can tenancy be allowed to wait while disease, poverty and ignorance run their course, undermining our social, economic and political institutions? If not, what are we going to do?

Government Can't Do Job

The first step, perhaps, will be to cast off any remainnig hope that the federal government is going to do the job through the medium of a single, all-powerful tool. The next will be to cast about to see what can be done with the available tools.

The Farm Security Administration, successor to the Resettlement Administration, is the agency designated to administer the Bankhead-Jones bill. Although present funds will permit the sale of only about 2,000 farms to tenants, or approximately one to each county, the FSA has the opportunity to demonstrate the results that can be obained. Its accomplishments will determine in a large measure the future of governmental participation.

Any means of increasing the effectiveness of the FSA will pay dividends in the form of additional appropriations in the future. One such method that suggests itself is to find new ways to utilize the experiences of the Resettlement Administration in providing farm supervision. The type of supervision developed by the RA has produced more benefits in comparison to the amount spent than any other phase of that agency's work.

At present, supervision is provided all clients of the Farm Security Administration, and the same type of supervision will be provided those tenants who buy farms under the Bankhead-Jones act. This supervision service, including the service of the farm agents and home management agents, could be offered to those not receiving it at present in a manner that would encourage the sale of land to tenants and also would promote a better relationship between landlords and tenants. In brief, this subsidized supervision could be offered farm-buyers buying farms on contracts approved by the FSA and to renters on contracts that would be beneficial to both landlord and tenants.

Chief Obstacles

The two chief obstacles to permanent farm ownership by the landless are the down payment and the inability to run and manage a farm after they get one. An explanation of how subsidized supervision could help to reduce these barriers follows:

Landholders who were willing to sell land on long-term mortgages of 15 or 20 years would be asked to list their farms and the prices asked with the FSA.

The FSA would have these farms appraised with a view to determining whether they could pay themselves out with proper management.

Lists of farms thus approved would be placed in the hands of those who would be likely to have contact with prospective purchasers.

If possible, the FSA would have a hand in selecting buyers, and at any rate would have the power to determine whether the services of the agency would be provided. Thus some protection would be afforded both the seller and buyer.

Having determined that the sale price was not excessive, and the interest charges and terms were such as would make possible eventual ownership, and that the buyer was capable, the FSA would, in effect, cite the advantages it could give to each and the terms on which they would be given.

To the insurance company or bank, it would say:

Give the buyer the advantage of long-term payments and the lowest interest rate in keeping with sound banking policies.

Reduce the down payment ordinarily required.

In return, we will provide the buyer technical advice and assistance which will improve your chances of collecting regularly and without undue expense.

Furthermore, with proper supervision you will have more protection against "temporary buyers" who contact to buy a farm, allow it to run down for two or three years and then turn it back to the seller.

With this additional protection and savings in administration and sales cost, you can afford to give the most liberal terms.

* * *

Sales Talk to Buyers

To the prospective buyer the FSA would say in effect: :

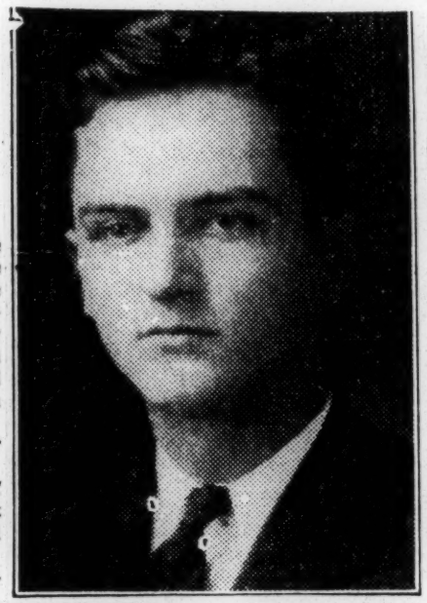
We can get you more liberal terms than you could get otherwise.

You will be provided expert advice and assistance.

Your wife will have the advantage of the services of a home management agent.

In exchange, you commit yourself only to follow sound conservation and crop policies and to co-operate with the FSA to the best of your ability.

One possible way of getting over the hurdle of the down-payment would be the rental-sales contract. Under such arrangements there is a



GOULD BEECH

preliminary period of two or three years during which the contract between the two parties would be on a rental basis. he prospective buyer might agree to pay a small sum in addition to his regular rent, and at the end of the period he would have an option to buy, with the additional sum to be accepted as the down payment, or with the privilege of having the first payments accepted as installments. From that point the sale would continue as a fifteen or eighteen note mortgage.

The FSA would be acting in a capacity similar to that of the Federal Housing Administration, except that it would not be directly obligated. Its facilities would be used in accelerating land sales to bona fide farmers and in finding ways of bridging the gap between those who have land to sell and those who wish to buy it.

The vast outlay of funds necessary in placing the Bankhead-Jones legislation on a widespread bases would be eliminated, as would the customary difficulties and shortcomings that are experienced when the government enters the field of buying and selling. Only the cost of supervision—which also would be borne under the Bankhead-Jones system would be required. It might be possible, as under the FHA, to set aside one-half of one per cent of all interest charges to be placed in an insurance fund to be used for payments in bad crop years or in case some circumstances over which the buyer had no control made it impossible for him to make a regular installment payment.

* * *

Test Merit of Plan

It would be simple enough to make a test of the feasibility of the plan outlined since no law or special appropriation would be necessary, the present authorization for the FSA being broad enough to permit its institution on a trial basis. This service could be made available only in vicinities where there was sufficient demand to justify the personnel required.

The value of such a program as outlined would not be confined to those directly affected. The educational value of demonstrating that land sales and land rentals, particularly in the Southeast, can be placed on a better basis for the mutual benefit of all concerned would be worth the cost.

If a tenant program could be formulated that would not involve heavy outlays on the part of the federal government, it is probable that congress and the president would be more inclined to invest a sum that would permit its inauguration on a widespread scale. Furthermore, the congressmen from urban districts would be more inclined to favor such a program. Unfortunately some of them have already demonstrated a lack of foresight by balking at outlays for farmers. But provision is being made under the Wagner-Steagall housing act for huge expenditures to improve housing conditions in the cities. In the Southeast a farmer can be set up on a working farm unit with all equipment for about the same price that a city-dweller is provided a home. Provision is yet to be made for giving the farm tenant comparable benefits.

The Proposed Farm Bill

Anxious and aroused citizens opposed to the farm bil now before Congress, and who declare the proposal is half baked and poorly drawn should keep in mind the old adage, "One cannot eat his cake and have it too." The farm bill was rushed out of the agricultural committee by fiilibustering Southern Senators who could not wait for fear the Senate might proceed to take up the anti-lynching bill. It seems as though the Senate was not adquately and properly taught a lesson it should learn when it unwisely rushed through the confirmation of Mr. Justice Black. If the farm bill is bad and ill advised let us remember the Senate dashed this legislation out before the American people at a moment when effort was being made to violate a "gentleman's agreement" regarding mob murder.

The Black Dispatch along with others interested in agriculture, feels that something must be done to relieve a serious condition existing in rural life, but we do not believe the present bill will serve such an end.

The fact that certain Senators living in the South sponsor the bill should not create the impression among Negro farmers that all is well. In a certain sense the bill does favor the cotton growers as against other sections, but in the present bill there neither is serious regulatory authority which could work in many districts to the positive disadvantage of Negro farm owners and tenants.

Under the old voided Agricultural Adjustment Act, and the present soil conservation program, farmers volunteered to cooperate with the program of the government. If they signed up they participated in the benefits; if they did not they, of course, took their chances as a free lance. Under such a setup the farmer remains free to exercise his own good judgment as to what he desired to do.

Senate Bill No. 2787, which is the new farm bill ,if enacted into law, will spread terrorism among many Negro farmers in the deep South. Crop quotas will be determined arbitrarily by a group of farmers in each county, and we are assured that in most of the counties in states like Mississippi, Alabama, and Arkansas ,such boards would always be composed entirely of white men.

If, for any reason a planter fails to comply with the planting and marketing quotas of the bill, he will be subject to prosecution in the federal courts. After defining the various ways by which the proposed bill may be violated, we quote now the actual language of the bill relating to prosecution:

"The several district courts of the United tSates are hereby vested with jurisdiction specifiically to enforce the provisions of this title. If and when the Secretary shall so request, it shall be the duty of the several district attorneys in their respective districts under the direction of the Attorney General to institute proceedings to collect the penalties provided for under this section."

There are many intelligent Negro farmers in the far South. Many instances have been recorded where up-to-date, high-grade Negro farmers have been driven out of communities because of their progressiveness. In many instances such Negroes, while thrifty, have practically no education. Many cannot read, and certainly could not understand a highly technical document couched in the stilted language as is the proposed farm bill. In fact we heard a Congressman last week in Congress say he had read the bill several times and did not understand all of its provisions.

Now listen to the bill under the caption. "Excess Marketing Penalty":

"It shall be a violation of the law for any farmer to engage in any unfair agricultural practice that affects interstate or foreign commerce, and for each such violation the farmer shall be liable to pay an excess marketing penalty."

Now how under heaven is a poor dirt farmer, be he black or white, going to know when he wakes up in the morning whether he has been guilty of "any unfair agricultural practice that affect interstate or foreign commerce"? Would it not be an easy method to get rid of Negro farmers in a given neighborhood by yanking them in court charging them with interfering with foreign commerce?

If the bill passes, a farmer in order to be sure he has not trespassed the law, would be required to employ a first class bookkeeper, for again we quote the law, which reads:

"Farmers engaged in the production of wheat or corn shall furnish such proof of their acreage, yield, storage andmarketing of the commodity in the form of records, marketing cards, reports, storage under seal, or otherwise as may be necessary for the administration of this section and prescribed by regulations of the secretary. Any farmer failing to furnish such proofs in the mannerand within the time provided shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction there of be subjected to a fine of not more than $100."

Senator Josh Lee, of Oklahoma, in speaking the other day in the upper house against certainprovisions of the bill attacked the measure in this language:

"Furthermore it provides that one-third and one farmer can by their votes prevent the other farmers getting loans. It also provides that others cannot benefit by the quotas if one-third and one vote against the quotas in the referendum."

It can be readily seen that there is much in the bill vague and indefinite, and subject to the whim and caprice of local interpretation. Every morning the dread of federal inquisition would be staring the poor Negro farmer in the face. Influences would develop to drive many from rural areas. The Negro farmer could not survive. The "New Deal" would have been converted into a raw deal.

Crop control is not in our judgment the final solution of our economic ills. The doctrine of scarcity does violence to all of our previous philosophy and thinking. The great agricultural extension service was built upon the theory that we must produce more on the soil. The great irrigation and flood control projects in the West were built upon the theory that America must produce more.

Millions of Americans are starving today in a land where the graneries are bursting with crop yields. Some radical changes should be made in our distribution system, by which we can better clothe, feed and shelter people.

We have concentrated wealth in America and from this control price fixing agencies stand like hungry wolves to separate the masses from every penny that comes into their hands. Instead of regulating the hungry toiler and penalizing him for working and characterizing stored food that should go to the masses as useless surpluses, government needs clearer vision as to what justifies its exitence

Agriculture—1937
Condition of

General

Arkansas Farm Delegation Urges Permanent Program In Report To Subcommittees

Resolution Points Out That Cotton Is No Longer Sectional Problem and That Stabilization Of Agriculture Is Important to All Industries

Following is the report on cotton problems presented yesterday to the Senate Subcommitte by a Joint Committee of agricultural interests representing Arkansas. The Arkansas delegation at the Senate hearing at the Peabody, consisting of about 75 farers of all sections of the state, concurred in the opinion. The text:

Cotton is no longer a sectional problem!

Rather it is a national problem that directly affects both labor and industry, as well as other agricultural areas. One-third of the six million farmers in the United States are cotton producers. Therefore, industrial activity and labor demand are dependent in no small measure upon the degree of prosperity and well being of the cotton farmers. Furthermore, it is believed that the stabilization of American agriculture as a whole will do more to stabilize labor demand and industrial activity than anything that can be done for these two great economic groups.

In the Southern region, comprising Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, Oklahoma, South Carolina and Texas, is produced 21 per cent of the National farm income. Cotton, which constitutes over 40 per cent of the agricultural exports and approximately 20 per cent of all exports, is the major cash crop of this area. With cotton as an export commodity, the Southern cotton grower must take his chances with world prices. Therefore, the cotton farmer is not only faced with the problem of producing his crop in direct competition with foreign labor which has low standards of living, but he must produce his crop with costly materials and equipment manufactured under high tariff protection—in short, high production cost on one hand and low world price on the other. The right of industry to enjoy high tariff protection is therefore challenged, if one-third of the farmers of the United States must continue to produce its chief product with no tariff offset.

Urged Bankhead Act

The need for further strengthening of the Agricultural Adjustment Program is acknowledged. To demonstrate the attitude of the Southern cotton farmer relative to production control, it is interesteding to note that the cotton growers felt the need for strengthening the control features of the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1933, and, therefore insisted upon the passage of the Bankhead Act. Their confidence and belief in this form of compulsory control was further demonstrated when they voted 9 to 1 in its favor after a year of operation.

The welfare of 35 per cent of the National farm population engaged in cotton production is another consideration. Standards of living of all the millions of people who have a part in the cotton crop of the South cannot be improved when low cotton prices exist. The standard of living of the cotton farmer should be commensurate with that of producers of non-export farm products in the United States ,as well as with that of other non-agricultural American citizens.

Recommendations Listed

Therefore, the agricultural producers of Arkansas, represented at the hearing held in Memphis, Tenn., Oct. 28, 1937, unanimously recommend the following:

1. That the agricultural conservation program be the basis of any permanent agricultural program.

2. That compulsory control is necessary and fundamental to the success of any program and should be incorporated in the law.

3. That the ever normal supply principle is sound and should be enacted into law.

4. That a surplus reserve loan corporation should be established by which loans can be made available to the various basis commodities. Loans made available to export commodities, such as cotton and rice, should be made on a basis not exceeding the amount per unit at which these commodities could move freely into export channels under normal world marketing conditions.

5. That funds be made available with which to make adjustment payments to producers on their normal production on their permitted acreage in an amount equal to the difference between the average farm price through the marketing year and the average purity price through said marketing year or within a reasonable percentage thereof.

6. That since cotton seed represents approximately one-fourth of the value of lint cotton, sufficient benefit payments should be paid on cotton seed to bring the price of cotton seed to the same relation to parity as is provided for lint cotton.

Should Inaugurate Feed Crops

7. That any producer co-operating under the program provided by the act to be given full opportunity and encouraged to produce food and feed crops necessary to meet his home and farm requirements without reduction in payments which would otherwise have been earned.

8. That the act be administered by Producer Committees in co-operation with the Land Grant Colleges as the representatives of the secretary of agriculture.

9. That the national soil depleting base for any major agricultural commodity should be allotted by the secretary among the several states and counties on the basis of the acreage devoted to the production of the commodity during the preceding recent years (plus in the applicable years the net acres diverted from such production under the agricultural adjustment and conservation programs) with adjustments for normal trends in acreage during the period and that each local allotment be allotted to the farms within such local area according to the tillable acreage, type of soil, topography and production facilities.

10. That cotton, rice, wheat, corn and tobacco be designated as basic commodities.

11. That the above mentioned points be incorporated into law and enacted not later than Jan. 1, 1938, in order that administrative rulings can be drafted and the program gotten into the field in time for the program to become effective in the crop season of 1938.

Believe Program Essential

The above recommended principles are incorporated in the Pope-McGill and Flannagan Bills and reference may be made to those bills for details.

We believe that a national agricultural program, embodying the above principles is not only essential to the American farmer, but is equally essential to the continued prosperity of the financial, industrial, commercial and labor interests of this Nation and is the only means through which American agriculture can receive a parity price for its products and receive a like benefit which is now being received by indus ry through tariff.

In presenting the above statements, we would respectfully call your attention to the fact that this hearing is attended by respective producers not only from all geographic sections of the entire state, but that the representatives in attendance also represent not only organized agricultural groups of the state, but likewise represent all types of agricultural products produced within the state.

It is the unanimous sense of the producers in attendance at this hearing, that we express our sincere appreciation to your honorable body for allowing the agricultural producers of this state to be permitted to present their views at this hearing.

Mississippi Farmers Suggest 1938 Crop Plan Be Designed To Insure Parity of Income

Urge Legislation Aimed to Stimulate Consumption Of Commodities at Home and Abroad, As Well As Promote Conservation Program

Representatives of the farmers of Mississippi made the following report yesterday to the Senate Subcommittee in session at the Peabody. Submitted by C. L. Neill of Ellisville, chairan of farmers' representatives who were naed at three regiondl meetings recently. Th text follows:

The declared purpose and objective of the legislation should be to establish and maintain for the producers in each of the major commodity groups comprising the whole of agriculture, a net income equal to that enjoyed by those comparably engaged in all other lines of American business and industry.

To attain this objective, particularly in so far as cotton producers are concerned, it is imperative that the legislation advance a two-fold program designed; first, to directly and aggressively stimulate the consumption of farm products, we urge that the farm legislation should provide at least the following essential features:

(1) The establishment of a Special Joint Committee of Congress or Commission to make an extensive study of the application of the Hawley-Smoot Tariff Law, the Counter-Vailing Duties Act, and all other laws placing burdens or restrictions upon international trade, such commission to be required to report the result of its findings to the next session of the National Congress, that report to particularize with respect to

both at home and abroad through every proper governmental means; and second, to establish a system of sound, stabilized farm operation whereby production is kept in balance with consumption, soil resources conserved, farming efficiency promoted, and farmers equitably compensated by the Federal Government for their losses occasioned by the tariff and other governmental policies pursued for the benefit of other groups at their expense.

With respect to increasing con-

tariff protected articles, of which we domestically produce a small percentage of the quantity annually consumed in America, the purpose of the report of such a commission being to enable Congress to enact a fair and equitable tariff law that will be to the greatest good of the greatest number of American citizens, that will protect, where protection is essential and proper, American industry without penalizing American agriculture or the great body of American consumers.

Free Trade Not Favored

We do not recommend free trade, a general or horizontal lowering of tariff schedules, or the enactment of tariff laws that will tend to lower living standards for American labor. We are convinced that, without harm to American labor, our foreign trade relations may be materially improved by what might be termed a selective and intelligent revision of existing laws affecting international commerce.

2) The launching of an intensive and adequately financed research program by the secretary of agriculture to develop new uses and markets for farm products, especially cotton.

3) A thorough analysis of all freight and shipping rates in domestic or foreign commerce that apply to the transportation, or directly affect the sale of American farm products; such analysis to be made by the secretary of agriculture and he be authorized to represent farmers before the Interstate Commerce Commission in presenting his findings and seeking equitable adjustments.

Conservation Must Continue

In that portion of the legislation designed to establish a system of sound farm operation and surplus control we submit the following recommendations:

1) The principle of maintaining soil fertility and continued improvement embodied in the present Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act shall be continued. Any additional benefits to be offered farmers in any program shall be based on their compliance with sound farming and soil-building practices. That all payments be made on actual performance.

2) Surplus control is essential to the success of any plan for maintaining fair prices and equality of income to farmers and in such control the welfare of the consumers must be considered. In determining the degree of control, parity of income together with parity of price should be essential factor. Legislation for surplus control must be based on flexible restrictions of national acreage planted to cotton, and not on pounds or bales produced.

3) The principle of rewarding producers for compliance rather than penalizing them for non-compliance should be the basic rule of any act or law. In all events the legislation covering surplus control should be applicable to all producers alike.

) It is essential to the general welfare of the Nation that the South continue to grow cotton for export as well as for domestic consumption. Any prolonged and definite program of drastic reduction of cotton acres will throw millions of acres now planted to cotton into other crops which will necessarily cause serious dislocation of farming in other sections; therefore, it is essential that a normal amount of the South's land be planted to cotton and that this cotton acreage must continually expand.

Urge Balanced Trade

(5) We buy in protected markets, and, therefore urge legislation that will enable us to balance our farm trade with other nations. In recognition of this condition and in the belief that foreign markets for cotton should not be maintrained at the sole expense of the farmers of the South, it is essential that any farm legislation affecting cotton shall carry with it provisions for compensatory tariff payments to cotton growers on a production sufficient to supply normal domestic consumption and export requirements. These payments to be made out of the Treasury of the United States to cotton producers, and in amounts necessary to compensate them for the cost of the protective tariff.

In the event it is necessary to raise additional taxes for the support of this program, such taxes should be levied upon tariff protected industry as a whole and not as a processing tax.

(6) The basic principle recognized is the present price-adjustment program, that of providing a compensatory payment on cotton regardless of where it is consumed, should be followed in any future legislation.

(7) In order to promote the use of cotton bagging cotton sales should be made on a net weight basis, and the secretary of agriculture should be given authority to establish minimum weight and standards for covering.

(8) That a new, correct and equitable basis should be established to apply to every cotton producer, and that all benefits, subsidies or payments to producers for compliance with production control should be made on the basis of the actual cotton production of the farm.

(9) That there be a tax levied on all acres planted to cotton in excess of the producers' allotment, and that the entire crop of the producer be declared contraband until the acreage tax is paid.

Payments Should Cover Seed

(10) That the act be administered by local, county, state, and regional boards elected by the producers.

(11) That the maximum allocation of base acres shall not exceed seventy per cent (70%) of the cultivated acres on the farm.

(12) The basis of making payments to cotton producers shall include cotton seed, as well as lint.

(13) That we go on record as favoring division of payments between landlord and tenant on the same basis as contained in the 1937 Soil Conservation Act and that this be specifically set forth in the act.

(14) In financing the two above mentioned programs, it should be the objective to provide sufficient funds to give a parity income to the producers in each commodity group. "Parity income" meaning a net income equal to the current income of individuals comparably engaged in business or industry.) Barring this, the funds which are made available for this purpose out of the general treasury should, after setting aside a sufficient amount for the soil-conservation program, be equitably divided between the major commodities designated and which are then selling below parity price, by a specific formula set forth in the bill itself. The formula should operate so as to lessen the disparity between the current price and the parity price of each commodity in exactly the same proportion.

That the total fund made available for each commodity each year should be divided between and made as a parity or tariff-compensating payment to the producer of that commodity.

(15) That in no case should compliance regulations deny to a farmer the right to grow on his farm all of the food and feed he might require for consumption on the farm.

16) Ample protection for the producers in the matter of redress and appeals from rulings of the various administrative agencies.

Agriculture - 1937
Condition of.

General.

COTTON: *Two-Year Sharecropper War Has Raged In Cotton Fields*

Situation Bad; State Seeks Permanent Remedy

By Lev Flournoy
Scripps-Howard Staff Writer

"Fascism" and "Communism" founght a two-year battle in Northeast Arkansas, and when the long fight was over there was a peace conference at Hot Springs and "Fascism" invited "Communism" to the Rotary Club.

That isn't the story of the sharecropper war in Northeast Arkansas, but that's how it turned out.

The peace conference wasn't a session between the Southern Tenant Farmers' Union and the planters and it didn't discuss the demands the unionists made.

It was a conference of planters, merchants, bankers, other Arkansas leaders, and croppers, called by Gov. Marion Futrell, and its discussions had to do with a permanent remedy for the evils of the cropper system. It may lead to a South-wide conference and from this latter meeting may come the machinery that may later lead to a solution.

The sharecroppers were given the floor with their ideas and complaints. The planters and the allied interests made no attempt to impress an ultimatum for future conduct on cropper unions.

Both emerged from the session in Hot Springs' luxurious Arlington Hotel pretty well convinced that future disputes will be ironed out in conference before strikes are attempted on the one hand, and violent muscling and evictions on the other. The Rotary incident followed.

Neither is in a position to guarantee quiet and peace, but peace is likely as an outcome of the meeting—at least as long as an honest and sincere effort is being made to bring about better conditions.

* * *

COMMUNISTS IN MEDDLING ROLE

It's hardly fair, either, without qualification, to call the planter-officer side of the controversy "Fascism," or the cropper-union side of it "Communism," though those are the names, meaningless to most people who heard them, that the combatants threw at each other.

The planter-officer group undoubtedly used the instruments of Fascism, if the law, obeying the orders of property, and making its rules as it goes along, is Fascist. But beyond the emergency, neither the planters nor the peace officers are interested in a Fascist regime.

The cropper unionists were not Communists, for they offered no theory of communal or state ownership. They were merely a tiny union making mild demands. What gave them the Communist odor was the fact that every Communist whose committee could afford railroad fare sent him into Northeast Arkansas, and financed him in persistent meddling.

"Gradually we weeded the Communists out," says Howard Kester, chief aid to H. L. Mitchell, the executive secretary of the union.

* * *

PLANTERS FURNISHED NEEDED PUBLICITY

Never was there a weak union movement more in need of publicity. And there never was an employer group more scornful of public opinion and therefore more subject by its own acts to a publicity it didn't want.

The unionists made their bids for page one by inviting assault and battery. The planter-officer group whose cause such publicity could damage, obliged them not only by assaulting them, but by riding over their rights of free speech and peaceful assembly, and marshaling old and fantastic statutes to levy exorbitant penalties against those they arrested.

The unionists made every indignity count. If an organizer left Memphis headquarters and went over the bridge looking for trouble and got it, he rushed back to the publicity channels. If the officer who had attacked had a sufficient excuse, in his own opinion of the matter, he not only kept silent about it, but he openly and hotly resented all polite inquiry.

A woman, representing a New York committee, amply financed by mysterious persons in a mysterious way, badgered a deputy at Earle, Ark., for three hours with questions, with innuendo, with scornful words. The deputy took it like a man, gritted his teeth and held his temper. The lady went back to Memphis.

Here, in their best clothes, are delegates of the East Arkansas sharecroppers and union members on the steps of the swank Arlington Hotel in Hot Springs, where they asked for and received a hearing before the Arkansas Farm Tenancy Commission.

Thirty minutes after she had left, the deputy ran into a cropper lolling about a store. The cropper, as the saying goes, "gave the deputy some lip," and the deputy gave the cropper a first-class pistol whipping. Every time the deputy hit the cropper he mentally was hitting the inquiring young lady but actually the cropper had suffered a bad beating when the thing was over, and the publicity that came from the incident reacted most unfavorably to the planter-officer contingents.

* * *

COMPARATIVELY LITTLE VIOLENCE

Likewise, it is a fact that the thing about which the union complains in Northeast Arkansas and which brought so much criticism on the part of the state, is a thing that has been going on for years.

Miss Willie Sue Blagden, the Memphis social worker, who went with a preacher, the Rev. Claude Williams, to hold a memorial service for a sharecropper, Frank Weems, near Earle, got the most newspaper lineage. Miss Blagden, a strong-minded young woman, suffered a clout on her thigh, when Rev. Williams was beaten up by "parties unknown." Miss Blagden wasn't badly hurt, but here was the South, supposedly chivalrous, manhandling a woman, and Miss Blagden's picture, revealing the bruised flesh, was broadcast all over the nation.

The union selected Northeast Arkansas for its initial activity, not because conditions affecting the croppers there are any worse than they are elsewhere in the South, but because Northeast Arkansas is a lush, new country, where the production per acre is good, where 90 per cent of the acreage is farmed by sharecroppers, and where sharecroppers are able to pay the 10 cents per month in dues that union membership demands.

* * *

NEXT FIGHT SLATED IN TEXAS, OKLAHOMA

Following this same plan of procedure, the next efforts in behalf of the union will be made in Oklahoma and Texas, also new country, where earnings per acre are good and dues can be paid.

The present need of the union organization is money for organization purposes. The union claims about 30,000 members, some of whom keep their dues paid, but it is woefully in need of funds.

That the union holds the key to the solution everyone denies. That it has been a prodding reminder to Southern interests that reforms must take place is very true.

The accomplishments of the union so far are not to be discounted. They include:

1. Governor Futrell's conference, Sept. 21, undoubtedly would never have been called except for union activity.

2. Regardless of the outcome of the trials, grand jury indictments before Federal Court in connection with the forced working of men in Northeast Arkansas will serve as a warning to men disposed to force their wills on farm hands.

3. Wages on many places where day labor, more destroying as a social factor than sharecropping, prevails have been increased.

4. The attitude of such planters as have been piratical and rapacious has changed for the better in many instances.

5. The large group of benevolent planters are beginning to realize that among their enemies are neighboring planters who impose upon their hands. Formerly their attitude was one of aloof disapproval of which the planters frowned upon were fully aware, but which bothered them not at all.

NEXT: Picking Machine Changes Picture.

South Gets Warning Of Farm Tenant Evil

ATLANTA, March 10.—(AP)—Hugh McRae, of Wilmington, N. C., president of the Southeastern Council, warned here today disaster might follow if the South permitted "the present system of farm tenancy to continue."

Speaking at a session of the council, McRae said "stupidity and greed are the greatest enemies of the South."

George S. Mitchell, director of Region No. 4 of the Resettlement Administration, laid before the conference the problem of bridging the gap between the standards of living in cities and rural sections.

"Poor people in the South have a miserable diet, poor rural families a dangerously low standard of living,' Mitchell said.

Mitchell believed some credit plan might be worked out, either by governmental or private agencies.

Death of Either Cotton Or South Seen by Editor

Milton Deplores Present Conditions in Potential Garden Spot of World

STATESBORO, Ga., March 12 (AP)—George Fort Milton, editor of the Chattanooga, Tenn., News, prediced the death of either "King Cotton" or southern agriculture in an address at the South Georgia Teachers college here tonight.

Urging diversification of crops, a shake-up in the credit system, more education, and a lower birthrate, the speaker said his remarks applied to Georgia and the "whole south."

"Nearly every major southern problem stems from the condition of southern agriculture," he said.

"Potentially the south is a garden spot of the world, a fact which makes all the more outrageous the further fact that today it has the lowest income of all regions of America, its people are the most poorly fed, its educational facilities the most inadequate and its social satisfactions the most dwarfed."

"With the largest area of cropland in the southeast, her (George's) percentage of farm land put in pasture is almost the smallest. Two-thirds of Georgia's farm land is put in cotton.

"Slave to Decrepit King"

"She was and still is the slave to this decrepit king.

"The basic difficulty is the system, a vicious circle of tenant, landlord, merchant, banker, all in the clutch of the cruel cash-crop agriculture that is crucifying rural Georgia and the agrarian south," Milton said.

A reversal in crop diversification is accompalying recovery, the speaker said. The swing is back toward cotton again "and the well known rut."

Three "alarming" factors now entering the picture to smirch the cotton farming industry in the south are the cotton picker, great new production areas elsewhere in the world, and the "threat of synthetic cotton."

Better Negro Schools Needed

"If present rates of births increase and if there is not another large exodus of southern born, some predict that by 1960 a majority of the people of the continental United States will be found living in 14 southern states."

Milton said the condition is one of "national concern," and that "the nation as a whole cannot ignore the need to join in an effective national program to give the rural south a chance to save itself.

Georgia spends more for education in proportion to its wealth than many other states, he said, but education is still inadequate because there are so many school children.

He criticized the poor condition of Negro schools saying, "it is as plain as a pikestaff that there can be no more penny-wise pound-foolish policy than that of keeping the southern Negro illiterate, ignorant, and incompetent."

Couch Leads Discussion

Dr. William T. Couch, Jr., director of the University of North Carolina Press, led round table discussions after Milton's address.

Following the meeting, a socia hour was held in the college gymnasium.

On Saturday's program are Dr. T F. Abercrombie, head of the Georgia public health department; Dr. Charles Herty, chemist; Dr. J. T. Wheeler, of the State College of Agriculture; Dean Thomas Askew of the Armstrong Junior college at Savannah; Miss Gay Shepperson, state WPA administrator; H. W. Caldwell, LaGrange business man; Tom Wisdom, state auditor; and Henry McIntosh, editor of The Albany Herald.

Chief topic of discussion by these speakers will be various phases of Whither Georgia, Poverty or Abundance?

Fourth of Dixie Farm Tenants Not Qualified To Possess Property

LITTLE ROCK, Ark., (ANP)—After surveying 20,267 rural rehabilitation clients in Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi, T. Roy Reid, regional Resettlement Administration director for the three states, declared that 25 per cent of the total "cannot be expected to qualify ultimately to assume the responsibility of farm ownership."

Poor health, lack of ability or inclination would make these people in eligible for farm ownership even if the government should offer them the opportunity, Reid said. The RA rehabilitation clients are representative of tenant farmers and sharecroppers in the three states, he pointed out.

He estimated that 35 per cent of the total could qualify for farm ownership after operating farms for five years under a rural rehabilitation loan and home management plan, 11 per cent are competent to assume farm ownership without supervision, and 29 per cent are qualified to own farms if they receive government assistance and supervision.

Reid declared improvements in health, and education are necessary for reducing farm tenancy, but the most essential things for attacking present tenancy conditions are "economic opportunity of farm ownership, with crop credit at less cost and more definite, equitable and possible longer contracts for those who must remain as tenants.'

'Paternalism'

The President's Commission on Farm Tenancy has recommended that the Federal Government lend able farm tenants the money to buy farms on payments, but that they not be given title until after the 20th year.

Some congressmen have objected to this provision, urging that title be given after the fifth year, the Government retaining a mortgage. They say the commission's recommendation is "paternalism."

So it is, but it is not objectionable for that reason.

For the whole scheme is paternalistic. It is paternalistic for the Government to lend purchase money to tenants who have lost their farms or have never been able to obtain land because of hard economic conditions. Yet we believe a majority of Americans want capable farmers to have such help.

But if the Government is going to embark on such a paternalistic scheme, it must carry the paternalism through to its logical conclusion so that the enterprise will be a success.

The object is to establish farmers in secure possession of the land they till. It will not make for such security to give them a title that will permit them to sell the land the Government has assisted them to buy. Such a policy would only encourage land speculation, and land speculation is one of the causes of the widespread farm tenancy which the Government is now asked to cure.

Another reason for the Government's retaining title for a long time to the land its money buys for tenants is that this hold will give Uncle Sam the means to enforce measures for soil conservation, so necessary to the welfare, and perhaps even the continued existence, of this country.

The need for keeping a string to land bought for tenants is so great that there was a large group of citizens on the President's commission who favored giving no title until after 40 years. The 20-year provision represents a compromise. Of course it is provided that the farmer or his heirs can surrender the equity to the Government at any time and recover what has been paid in.

To assist tenants to become landowners will require a large expenditure of Government money. The Government owes it to the taxpayers to spend their money in such a way that it will not be wasted, but accomplish the purpose. That purpose is not to subsidize land speculation, but to give the farmer secure possession of the acres on which his livelihood depends.

THIS MORNING

By JOHN TEMPLE GRAVES II.

* * * *

"Lift the golden balances that show
The fates of mortal men."

The golden balance sought for industry and agriculture in the south can be achieved only if an equal weight is given both. This column encounters few southerners now who are not impressed with the need of proper industries to absorb the excess products and population of the farm. That is a matter upon which nearly all seem to be agreed and upon which, indeed, the whole country is agreed. Industry is coming south in such speed and volume that our southern concern must be more for quality than for quantity. The south needs industrial development, and the south is getting industrial development.

* * * *

But we do find southerners who eagerly convinced of what industry can do for agriculture, forget or are indifferent to what agriculture can do for industry. In their philosophy there seems to be no thought for the enormous market the factory can find on the farm and the need of building up the farm for benefit of the factory. The southern farmer is not a mere problem. He is a customer and, potentially, a prime customer.

* * * *

The greatest economic unwisdom of an otherwise "wise modern society," Dr. Julian Miller, editor of The Charlotte Observer, told the Southeastern council recently, "is the attempt of the business and financial and industrial regiments to live next door to and yet remain unconcerned and unalarmed over, the distressing spread of economic poverty and social liabilities among its urban masses and its rural landless." Dr. Miller, as we know him, believes mightily in industrial growth for the south, but he knows that industrialists overlook their own greatest eventual market if they fail to give time, money and moral support to measures improving the lot of the masses of the south. And that the great percentage of those masses are agricultural.

That is why we cannot agree with President T. Scott Roberts, of the Alabama Cotton Manufacturers' Association, who told the Birmingham Traffic Association last Tuesday that the Roosevelt policies tend to impose upon the south a perpetually agricultural status. He charged that one of the purposes of the Wagner bill is, by regulation of hours and wages, to prevent the development of southern industry and its encroachment upon the industrial east. "Roosevelt, in his sincere concern for the people of this section," Mr. Roberts is reported as saying, "believes that agriculture is what we are for." Our own notion of what Mr. Roosevelt believes is that industry in the south can prosper permanently only by building up the purchasing power and living standards of its own people, and that the greatest service he or anyone else can do to southern industry, therefore, is build up southern agriculture.

* * * *

What Mr. Roberts must have in mind is the possibility that federal regulation of wages and hours might result in an elimination of the wage differentials upon which certain southern industries depend for their existence. But the propriety of a wage differential for such industries has been recognized by the Roosevelt administration all along. So long as it it indispensible to the south it is likely to remain. When it is no longer indispensible, southern industry can add to its own customers by eliminating it.

* * * *

Chemurgists may tell us how to substitute one use for another, or this product for that. Chambers of commerce may get business for their own community at the expense of some other community. Regionalists may wrangle for possession of this economic item or that—and it is important for each of us to play his competitive part in a competitive world. But in the last analysis, the real promise for everybody is in an increase of the great sums total—the sum total of cotton, steel, bread, furniture, services, transportation, chewing gum, and everything else. In other words, an increase in the mass level of living.

Agriculture — 1937
Condition of.

General

Letters To The Editor

Please be brief. We reserve the right to cut letters more than 300 words long

COTTON AND THE LITTLE FELLOW
(DELAYED)

Editor The Advertiser:

As you know, for a good many years some six to eight million bales of cotton have been produced in this country for export, and merely for sake of brevity, I will refer in this letter to that part of the cotton crop as "cotton production," and as there is no hazard of cotton production for domestic consumption, it does not seem necessary to discuss cotton production in full, or in its meaning.

"Cotton production," as is well known, has been a vast industry in the South for many years, furnishing occupation to many thousands in the South, and therefore, its preservation and maintenance is of vast importance. This goes without saying, this being without doubt notwithstanding the many arguments, which are largely superficial, against overproduction of cotton. True enough, diversification of crops is good to an extent, the one crop idea (cotton alone) not being so bad either, because as applied to the U. S. as a whole, mostly one crop (cotton) in the South, still amounts to the desired diversification when applied broadly to the whole U. S. Therefore, when other crops throughout the U. S. are considered as a whole, even if largely one crop to a section, this contributes that much more to internal trade in farm commodities, making that much healthier conditions. For instance, if diversification were carried far enough, every farmer would produce practically everything he needs, and there would be virtually no trade or commerce even between our States, making unlimited diversification undesirable.

What is needed more than anything else is a bona fide protection for the cotton farmer. The present pegged loan price, whether intentional or not, is a fraud against the real cotton farmers. The Government is expecting to FORCE up prices and sell the loan cotton without much, if any, loss. All the loss in "cotton production" will be on the real cotton farmers, in the eventual but certain loss of foreign markets, taking away in effect all of their FUTURE in "cotton production," this loss to be the price of the present, TEMPORARY benefit to them. They are not allowed under present loan system to have cheap cotton at world market prices with which to maintain their place against foreign grown cotton competition. Senator Bankhead gives statistics to show no ill effect on cotton exports for the past several years under crop control, but this is completely meaningless over a sufficient length of time, as anyone knows that cheap cotton, competitive cotton, is the only way "cotton production" can be sustained.

Unfortunately the interests of small cotton farmers and those of large cotton farmers are widely apart, especially under the present pegged loan method. Under it the big farmers are benefited permanently, while the smaller farmers will be forced to withdraw eventually in the production of some 6 to 8 million bales for export. The farmer can cut down and still be going strong, leaving nothing in the FUTURE for the little farmer to be occupied with. Therefore, the politicians have the influence and support of the larger farmers in this price pegging, being enabled in this way to carry it on.

The real cotton farmers as above referred to are the little ones. Probably some 80 per cent of the crop is raised by them. They represent the backbone of "cotton production," there being many thousands of them. They are sorely in need of leadership, and should demand discontinuation of price pegging, and perfect freedom, without crop control in their "cotton production." They should have a royalty or subsidy when and as cotton is below certain prices, and then only a certain number of bales to be so protected, say up to 50 bales, or a certain subsidy at such times, but the number of bales to be limited, and not applying to larger farmers, except up to 50 bales production.

This would be a healthy method, and should be set up to remain in effect permanently, as the production tariff is set up for manufacturers. In this way it would cost the Government but not the producers, as it should be, and not even costing the Government at all in years of favorable world prices. The manufacturers have protection permanently under the high protection tariff, that is taxing the people (indirectly) in high prices at all times. Why not put the farmers raising about 80 per cent of the crop on equality with the manufacturers, rewarding them out of tax money? Both to cost the people, except that tariff protection to manufacturers is indirect and constant while such protection to the mass of farmers would be direct, and just on occasions, while the world cotton market is low. It would leave the farmer free and without restraint, and as he should be in his occupation, and as free to do and act as the manufacturers are. Do this or remove the tariff for manufacturers.

A good feature about this proposal is that the politician can advocate it without fear of opposition from the great mass of cotton farmers. It should receive the approval of the latter overwhelmingly, but would probably incur the opposition of the larger cotton growers, who are very much in the minority. Furthermore, it would be a material help in the matter of the tenant farmer.

"Cotton production" is sorely in need of real protection for present, and FUTURE, similar in final effect as that afforded manufacturers.

Pensacola, Fla. RAY POINDEXTER.

DANGER TO SOUTH FROM ROBOT SEEN

Cotton Picker Will Displace 500,000 Laborers, Report Declares.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 24.—(AP)—Harry L. Hopkins, WPA administrator, made public a report today forecasting new labor problems for the south as a result of mechanical cotton pickers.

Within five or 10 years, the report said, the machines could displace "upwards of one-half million" cotton pickers.

"Since agricultural labor is excluded from the benefits of state unemployment insurance laws," it added, "any displacement of cotton farm tenants and shareholders that may result from the mechanization of cotton picking will be of immediate concern to agencies dealing with problems of economic security and relief."

The report was based on recent improvements in mechanical cotton pickers which in demonstrations have speeded up harvest operations and reduced labor costs.

JOHNSTON URGES BLOC TO BATTLE FOR SOUTH AGAINST COTTON FOES

Group Told To Demand Aid For Own Section Before Backing Other Laws

HIGH TARIFFS ATTACKED

Former Pool Manager Speaks at Stoneville

ONE VARIETY PLAN UPHELD

Government Plant Bureau Official Tells Visitors Value Of Standardization — Delta Day Program Held

(Pictures on Page 13)

Special to The Commercial Appeal

GREENVILLE, Miss., Aug. Aug. 17.—Southern representatives and senators in Congress should organize a block on farm legislation and demand satisfactory legisuation for cotton before they consent to enactment of remedial laws for industry, labor and other farm sections, Oscar Johnston of Scott, president of the Delta and Pine Land Company, told Mississippi farmers assembled at Stoneville today for the annual Delta Field Day at the Delta Experiment Station.

Severely flaying the tariff as being paid by farmers to build manufacturing trusts "that strangle and dictate legislation," Mr. Johnston blamed the tariff for shrinkage in the foreign markets.

Foreign Markets Lost

Pointing out that Secretary Hull is forming 16 reciprocal trade agreements to make inroads into the tariff system, Mr. Johnston pointed to foreign markets lost by the nations 'not because of dissatisfaction with our goods and price but because we have built up a Chinese wal lof tariff."

He scoffed at the claim of the Hawley-Smoot Bill backers that a high tariff was needed to promote high standard of living and said that the tariff had not benefitted labor.

Indorsing farm organization, Mr. Johnston said there was no person to speak with authority for cotton as was the case with industry and other sections.

Mr. Johnson deiterated his opposition to cotton loans for pegging prices.

Urges Standardization

"I urged no loan save a bankable loan," he said.

"There are many reasons why a standardization production is a logical procedure," Dr. H. W. Barre, Bureau of Plant Industry, Washington, said in ad address on a "National Co-Ordinated Cotton Research Program."

"I am glad to report that the one variety community method of large scale improvement is working satisfactorily, not only in Mississippi, but in practically al lof the states where it has been tried."

"The one variety community movement is gaining considerable headway in Mississippi. Last year there were 125 one-variety communities in 48 counties in this state, comprising about 200,000 acres and producing 120,000 bales of one-inch to one and one-sixteenth-inch cotton."

Ricks Presides

J. R. Ricks, dean and director of the agricultural school of Mississippi State College, presided at the meeting today.

Dr. G. D. Humphreys, president of State College, delivered the welcome address.

Governor White cancelled his schedued address, due to the death of his nephew.

E. H. White, director of extension, Mississippi State College spoke on "A Balanced Agricultural Program For Mississippi."

Oats, as a money crop for the delta, was the subject of J. G Pritchard, planter of Inverness.

Director H. C. McNamara and his station staff were presented at the close of the meeting.

—AND COTTON PAYS

Donald Comer, of Alabama, speaking before a subcommittee of the senate committee on agriculture, pointed out that every effort to increase the price paid for the cotton crop acted to increase the imports into this country of jute, one of the principal competitive fibers which take away valuable cotton markets.

Jute, raised in India by labor which receives from 8 to 12 cents per day in wages, enters the United States free of duty. It is used for many purposes, all of which could be better supplied by cotton. Yet, because of its cheapness, jute is used instead of the cotton grown in this country. It is estimated that it would consume 1,500,000 bales of cotton if the American product were substituted for the coolie-labor jute shipped in from India.

Mr. Comer pointed out that, when Senator Russell, of Georgia, in 1936 sought to secure a tariff on jute imports, the opposition to the proposal came from the dairy farmers of New York, who sack their feed in bags made of jute burlap; from Idaho farmers who sack their potatoes in burlap and from Washington where grain is sacked in burlap.

Yet there is a protective tariff on dairy products for the benefit of the New York dairy farmers, there is a tariff on potatoes and on sugar for the benefit of the Idaho potato growers and sugar beet producers, and there is a tariff for the protection of practically every product of the Pacific coast.

Why, Mr. Comer pertinently asks, do these others insist on penalizing the southern farmer so they may save a few cents on their bagging, when the southern farmer pays tariff tribute to them on every pound of their products he buys?

Why, he asks, are these others selfish for a few cents of savings at the expense of a destroyed market for 1,500,000 bales of cotton annually?

Even the United States postoffice department, in buying string, buys jute string in preference to cotton because of the difference in price, caused by lack of a protective tariff on jute.

The cotton producers themselves use jute burlap to cover their bales of cotton.

One of the first steps for the benefit of the cotton farmer should be the enactment of a jute tariff sufficient to lift its price to that of cotton, in this country, and thus reduce the imports of a pauper labor product that is in direct competition with the cotton producers of the south.

Farm Tenancy Meeting Called

With the first meeting of Alabama's farm tenancy committee scheduled for Thursday, in Montgomery, the Farm Security administration headquarters announced last night that tenant-aid loans probably would be extended in 35 Alabama and Georgia counties and 20 South Carolina counties.

E. S. Morgan, assistant administrator in charge of rural rehabilitation, said Florida's allotment of counties had not been determined and a date had not been set for a meeting of the advisory committee. Initial meetings of advisory committees in the other three states of this district, Alabama, Georgia, and South Carolina, already have been scheduled.

Mr. Morgan said that first operations under the Bankhead-Jones farm tenant act, making possible loans to farm owners and tenants, would provide aid for five to 10 individuals in each county designated. The extent of operations, he added, would be determined by land costs.

The Alabama advisory committee of which Robert K. Greene, of Greensboro, is chairman, is to assist in selection of counties and in the administration of the tenant-aid. Other members of the committee are P. O. Davis, Auburn; W. C. Lasseter Birmingham; R. E. Cammack, Montgomery; J. B. McClure, Florence; Elgie Hayes, Huntsville; Donald Comer, Birmingham; B. H. Lightfoot, Troy, and Olin Riser, Alpine.

Alabama is to receive $615,531 under the Bankhead-Jones act; Florida $61,623; Georgia, $635,003, and South Carolina $406,165.

Suffolk, Va., News-Herald
November 9, 1937

White and Negro Problems Linked

Editor Says Any Program Designed to Aid The Blacks Cannot Be Considered Separately From Poor Share-Cropping Whites

Alphonse J. Matt, Catholic editor and sociologist of St. Paul, Minn., told a convention of the National Catholic Rural Life conference today that any program for the economic and spiritual rehabilitation of the rural Negro of the deep south cannot be considered separately from a program for the poor share-cropping white man.

"They are both in the same boat for good or for all," he said. "Each sinks or rises by the other; hence attempts to consider one group independently of the other never get very far."

The editor of The Wanderer, German-American publican suggested as a possible attack on the Negro-poor white problem, the establishment of a monastic homestead project whereby and would be purchased in a southern agricultural state, a monastary built, and small subsistence farms be laid out for selected white and Negro tenants. Under his plan the tenants would operate as sharecroppers and would be safeguarded by a constitution that would assure them they could qualify in the course of time as owners of the property.

"While the plan as here proposed," he added, "appears to have a distinctly paternalistic flavor distasteful to those who are impatient for complete fulfillment, it is designed to overcome gradually the accumulated handicaps of habit and temperament to which the southern rural Negro and his impoverished white neighbor have fallen victims and to prepare them, in time to take their places as leaders of their people in a program of an agrarian rehabilitation of the south.

"The tenants attached to the monastery would have a number of distinct advantages. Firstly there would be security of tenure dependent solely on their own co-operation. Secondly there would be a quick development of sound cultural and spiritual community life under the active leadership of the monks whose interest in the welfare of their colony would be direct and intimate. Thirdly, there would be practical opportunities for training in agriculture and handcrafts and for an establishment of practival cooperative enterprises."

He cited objections to the monastic-resettlement proposal and pointed to the apparent failure of several such institutions to aid in solving the Sauthern rural Negro problem. For such a program to succeed, he said, there "is the undoubted necessity of certain definite modifications" of previous programs."

The conference today also heard from the Rev. John LaFarge, S. J., associate editor of America, on the Catholic church and agriculture.

The Jesuit Priest declared that the church herself had no scheme or plan to offer wherewith to preserve agriculture as a way of life.

"She has no plan," he said, "for the simple reason that the Catholic church does not work by plans and schemes...individual catholics and groups of catholics form plans and schemes...(which) are the work of organizations. But the Catholic church, as such, is not an organization in the sense of being a mere component of the wills and minds of cooperative-minded individuals."

Agriculture - 1937
Condition of.

General

THE SOUTH TODAY

Cotton on the Texas Plains

By ARTHUR COLEMAN

(Copyright, 1937, by Southern Newspaper Syndicate)

Editor's Note: Arthur Coleman, associate editor of Holland's Magazine, has traveled extensively in the South during the past nine years, studying the region's resources, developments, and potentialities. Editing a Southern magazine has made it imperative for Mr. Coleman to keep in constant touch with Southern conditions and no one is better informed about Southern industry and agriculture than he.

ARTHUR COLEMAN

Earlier this season, word came that North Carolina was reducing its cotton acreage. According to the report, the lower cost of producing cotton in Texas, especially on the High Planes, made competition by the Tar Heel state difficult at best; so North Carolina was in part gracefully retiring. It all made a very impressive story.

The real significance of the report, however, lies not in the facts but in the misapprehensions involved. The story reflects an idea current throughout the old South—a belief in a sort of myth regarding "Western" cotton. Legends of vast stretches of level acres and of modern machinery and mass-production methods on the High Planes of Texas stalk through the Southeasterner's imagination like seventeen horrible ghosts. And because the fear of Western competition too often discourages the Southeastern farmer from attempting methods that would improve his own cotton, it is a vicious thing.

Therefore, it may be well—indeed it may be a very fine move—to examine the Plains and Plains cotton, and see for ourselves just what threat there is. Sometimes stories are built up on a shaky foundation. Perspective may reveal a different picture.

The Plains themselves—that portion of the American high and rolling planes which lies in Texas—cover some fifty-odd West Texas and Panhandle counties. At one or more times beneath the sea, they have been built up of fluvial soil, spread by rivers playing across them, to an altitude ranging from 2,500 to 4,500 feet above sea level. It is a soil without any metallic minerals, and with relatively few nonmetallic; and until the coming of agriculture it produced largely only short grass.

Imagination Challenged

From the first of course, this huge inland sea of grass has seized men's imaginations, challenging them to find a way to utilize it, and they have been seeking such ways since the first Nordic pushed his way out of the forests and tall grass onto this tableland. Private individuals, government men, scientists and promoters have made exhaustive and persistent studies, and innumerable and frequently foolish suggestions. Here are the facts they have found:

The Plains are a semi-arid region. For the more tender, the word "subhumid" may be substituted. Both mean an annual rainfall of 20 to 25 inches. This rainfall is of the summer type, falling chiefly during the growing season, and therefore, other conditions being favorable, of maximum benefit to agriculture.

But unfortunately for the Plains farmer, the rainfall is spasmodic, with a large runoff and rapid evaporation. There is relatively little cloudiness and much sunshine. There is great wind movement — wind harder and more constant than is to be found anywhere else except the seashore, averaging 11 to 15 miles per hour. What's more, this wind in the summer months is often hot and always dry. And hail visits the Plains on an average of two or three days out of each frostless season. It is not necessarily damaging hail, but it has been known to be.

Shortage of Water

There are two ways to till such land: One is by irrigation and that one won't work on the Texas Plains for the sound reason that there is not enough water. The rivers flow out of arid mountains on the west, and so contain little water. In crossing the Plains, they flow below the water plane and to keep the ground water drained away to the extent that, in many places, it is below economical pumping distance. And this water is not sufficiently replaced by rainfall—which is not consistent over the whole area or from year to year—to supply any large area. That is one reason why artesian wells do not work on the Plains. Besides, none of the other conditions necessary to artesian wells hold uniformly over the Plains.

The other way is dry-farming, and that is the method used by successful Plains farmers today. This method utilizes the well-known capilkary action of the soil: first, the land is plowed deeply to break up the soil and so increase its water-holding capacity; then the surface is harrowed and re-harrowed immediately after each rain, shattering the capillary tubes at the top and creating a "dust mulch" that halts evaporation. Armed with this knowledge and utilizing the dry-farming method, cotton farmers moved onto the Plains, and today cotton occupies importantly nearly forty counties there.

In these counties, in 1936, nearly 600,000 bales of cotton were grown and marketed. Of this amount, a few counties whose soil is deeper than that of their fellows grew by far the larger part.

That's one side of the picture. The other is found in the little government monographs entitled, with admirable brevity, "Grade Staple Length, and Tenderability of Cotton in the United States," and in other special bulletins. The latest of these shows that well over half the 1936 Plains cotton—roughly 59 per cent—was untenerable. That year, only 26.5 per cent of all Texas cotton was untenderable, while the percentage in the rest of the South was lower still.

It may be argued and correctly, that 1936 was a bad year for Plains cotton. So was 1929, when almost the same percentage of the crop fell below scratch. But the government bulletins disclose also that in the years 1928, 1930, 1931, 1932 and 1933, Plains cotton averaged a sixth to two-fifths untenderable, while the entire United States crop was average from a twelfth to not more than a sixth untenderable.

Nature Dormant Factor

These facts place Plains cotton in a slightly different light. Six hundred thousand bales—or even a million bales, which the Plains have sometimes produced—do not loom so threateningly even in the aggregate; and not at all threateningly after so much untenderable cotton is removed. Any real competition from the Plains, any real figure Plains cotton may cut in the total U. S. scene, must come in the future, and before it can come, the Plains farmer must do several things in the way of wheedling nature and changing his own behavior.

Obviously, Plains cotton can become such a threat through only two actions: Expansion of production and improvement of quality. The first can be brought about by increase in acreage or better cultivation, or both. The second requires better seed and community co-operation.

Today, there is little evidence or promise of any tremendous, concerted enlargement of Plains cotton acreage. There will always be years, of course, when economic factors will encourage such expansion temporarily; but in other years these same factors will join with the physical nature of the Plains to discourage widespread planting. Large acreage does not always mean profitable cotton in a region where the per-acre yield has been cut as low as 57 pounds, and where even in "good" years this yield is not a great deal over 100 to 125 pounds.

On the other hand, almost every indication points toward better farming on the Plains. More intelligent husbanding of the soil and moisture, and crop diversification and rotation. Plains farmers have realized—and every agency of the region, notably the West Texas Chamber of Commerce, is continually hammering it in—that they cannot long continue to take profits from their land unless they halt the loss of the topsoil (that same valuable "dust mulch" of which we spoke), so much of which has "gone with the wind" in the terrible dust storms of recent years.

Notable Progress

Looking toward the saving of this soil and the conservation of rain where it falls, D. A. Bandeen of the West Texas Chamber of Commerce, and other public-spirited leaders, are working assiduously and successfully to bring about the widespread operation of such effective practices as terracing, the building of check dams and lower water dams, rodent control, strip cropping, lister and contour furrowing, forestation, crop rotation, the planting of soil-holding crops and windbreaks, and retirement from cultivation of highly erosive areas. And recent visitors to the Plains report amazingly rapid progress along these lines.

The result of these practices will undoubtedly be more and better crops; but that they will be further reflected in a greatly increased cotton production is questionable. The Plains farmer, so far as cotton is concerned, still has to contend with those hardest cotton problems, a short season and unreliable rainfall, which make difficult, if they do not prohibit, the production of better quality and longer staple cotton.

As to that other bugaboo which so frightens the Southeasterner — the Plains' use of mass-production methods—it simply does not exist as yet, and there is little evidence that it will. The Plains producer of cotton has no machine that greatly aids in the growing of his crops. Widespread stories of "sledding" on the Plains have been emphasized far beyond the sled's importance or use on the Plains. The sled is of value only in rapid gathering of the crop; and it is used, not every year or by every farmer, but only when early frost has damaged the crop and the staple cannot be picked—and such cotton clearly is not of considerable value.

It is safe to say, then, that by far the greater part of Plains cotton, in a majority of years, is picked in the good old-fashioned way, by hand. The cotton picking machine, when it is perfected, will undoubtedly be adopted on the Plains, and will be of much value there. But it will also be adopted by the rest of the South, and will be of equal value to it.

In summary, it appears clear that the Plains of Texas will be in the future, a region of much greater and more valuable agriculture, paying excellent returns to the farmer who adapts himself and his methods to the Plains. Cotton on the Plains will even pay the individual farmer greater returns than will cotton elsewhere, largely because the Plains farm averages 400 acres in size, as against 106 acres in the southeast.

But that, in the aggregate, cotton on the Plains will constitute any nightmarish threat to the rest of the South's cotton is extremely unlikely. In fact—to diverge a bit in conclusion—many competent observers of the cotton picture are beginning to feel that over-colored stories of Plains cotton are of a piece with a number of other gruesome visions that have been and daily are being summoned up concerning the terrifying future, or lack of future, of American cotton. Like the story of Plains cotton, these almost uniformly lack perspective and balance, and I hope to have the opportunity to examine them one of these days in these columns.

LETTERS FROM THE PEOPLE

Think for Yourself and Let Others Enjoy the Privilege to Do So.—Voltaire.

DOODLE FROM A GOPHER

To the Editor of The Telegraph:

There is not the shadow of a doubt that the sage of Monticello was right when he said, "The least governed country is the best governed country."

Millions are agreed with this philosopher and democrat of great wisdom, yet in these modern times there is a turning away from these grand old principles, an abandonment of the ship of state, which our fathers loved and honored.

It is notably so in this day of the New Deal. Our present administration is wild, perfectly frenzied on government control and regulation. Washington seems determined to make the great government which the framers of our constitution gave to the American people bend the knee to the New Dealers, taking orders from the dictator at the White House.

If there is anything that is grinding—that is aboslutely humiliating to a child of Anglo-Saxon blood, to a free-born American citizen—it is to hear the crack of a master's whip.

Negro slaves were emancipated in 1865. The federal government set them free. Now it would enslave the Southern white man. It would put him under government control. It would prescribe what he should plant—it would name the number of acres, particularly in cotton, that he should plant. It would limit the cotton to the plow. It would exact a heavy tax on the over-plus.

This same iniquitous New Deal has laid tribute on the meat and bread and clothing of the South. Did it not do this when it killed millions of fat sows and pigs, when the people were hungry? Did it not do this when it plowed up the white fleecy staple when the farmers of the South—yes, and of the nation—were shivering in rags? And all of this was done in the name of patriotism and of humanity! What rot! It was the work of crazy men—assinine performance in the extreme!

And shall these men be our masters? Shall we longer smart under the lash? Shall we not break the galling yoke and snap the chains that bind us? Like dumb, driven cattle shall we forever go on groaning, but not resisting? God forbid!

Shall we longer look on his sunny locks and hear his golden voice and say "Master" to him who sitteth on the throne in Washington? One is your Master—He is in Heaven. One is your King—His name is "Jesus."

For over four years the people of the South have suffered injustice and cruelty and humiliation, and not a few in the North have suffered with us.

"The mills of the gods grind slowly, but exceedingly fine."

Lucifer was dashed to the depths and he never came back again. The cohorts that are in the saddle today shall bite the grit tomorrow.

Your dictatorships shall sometime cease, and our people—the real people of America—shall one day come into their own.

Why, some of you folks up there in Washington don't know a doodle from a gopher—nor a bull yearling from a bob cat. Some of you smart Alexs don't know a cotton stalk from a cabbage plant. Some of them have insulted and slandered the Southern people. She wears a frock—occasionally they call her "Maw"; and there's a little fellow up there in that little state that has corn to burn—why he wouldn't know a cotton farmer were he to meet him in the road. Yet this same little fellow has the temerity to tell farmers how to grow cotton. Before you were born farmers in the South were growing cotton and long after you are dead they will still be growing cotton. They didn't need your ante-mortem—nor will we need your post-mortem. So hands off; let us alone—you have told us enough.

Josh Billings says the trouble with some folks is "they know so much that ain't so."

Man, long ago we have put aside the suckling bottle. We can even toddle about and run around and catch doodles and rake leaves.

You can make wash holes for elephants, as you have more time than we have. We are busy, 'possum hunting and catching "horney heads" (know what they are?) and riding bull yearlings all by ourselves. Don't even have a guardian. You just let us alone. We people of the South have at least enough sense to get out of a shower of rain.

Fitzpatrick, Ga. J. C. SOLOMON

Macon, Ga., Telegraph
October 26, 1937

Color of the Poor

Two perceptive Southerners, both deeply interested in advancement of this section of the nation, were quoted in parallel columns of Monday's Telegraph—each suggesting his own idea of the old theme, "What's the matter with the South"?

One of the commentators, Dr. Arthur Raper, author and professor at Agnes Scott College, attributed slowness in Southern social advancement to discrimination against the Negro race. He argued that the Negro race has been exploited at the cost of its advancement, but its ways have "become Southern ways", and the whole section has suffered. Dr. Raper, whose work for Negro advancement has been outstanding, obviously has basis for his argument. A nation or a section cannot be prosperous if a pauperized people—whether Negro or white—comprises half its population.

The other commentator was T. H. Alexander, Tennessee newspaper columnist who owns a tobacco farm. His simple recipe for Southern progress was "wealth". His argument set forth that prosperity in Southern tobacco fields has made the squalid characters of Tobacco Road old-fashioned. He affirmed that extreme poverty a few years ago did bring about conditions and conduct not so different from those enacted in the play.

But a series of droughts, he said, cut tobacco production, drained warehouse supplies, and sent prices soaring. The result: transformation of Tobacco Road.

"I'm not trying to say that the burley tobacco farmers of the South have suddenly become, as a group, highly cultured individuals," Mr. Alexander wrote, "but I do say that the extreme poverty and squalor of the Jeeter Lesters of Tobacco Road is gone. Indeed, the story of the comeback of tobacco is one of the most fascinating in all the annals of agriculture."

Mr. Alexander's article is an observation of cause and effect. He saw squalor and poverty. Then he saw increasing wealth and vanishing squalor. The race question did not enter into the analysis. Natural curtailment of production, and returning prosperity—whatever the cause—did enter into it.

Both Mr. Raper and Mr. Alexander, although they are looking at different points in the same broad subject, would admit correctness in the other's analysis.

Mr. Raper is interested primarily in a square deal for the Negro. Mr. Alexander, because he owns a tobacco farm, is interested primarily in prosperity of the tobacco farmer.

But their principles are the same. Neither the South nor any other section can prosper if some of its people are very, very rich, but just as many are very, very poor. The color of the poor doesn't matter. That is why the South must help its farmers give its labor a fair return if it is to take the power that is almost within its grasp.

Agriculture -1937
Condition of.

General

Southern Leaders Here Today To Weigh Farm Tenant Puzzle

President Roosevelt's committee on farm tenancy arrives here today in its swing over the Nation to collect information and ideas on the subject of turning tenant farmers and sharecroppers into independent landowners.

Dr. L. C. Gray, assistant federal resettlement administrator, will preside over today's round-table discussion after a conference tonight with R. W. Hudgens, regional resettlement administration director.

Gov. Graves urged a wide attendance of Southern industrial, financial and agricultural leaders at the conference, terming it one of vital social and economic importance to the South.

Bob Goode, Alabama's commissioner of agriculture, will be an ardent supporter of the plan at today's session—the second in a series of five at Dallas, Indianapolis, Lincoln, Neb., and San Francisco.

At Dallas Monday, tenants, landlords and farm organization spokesmen voiced almost unanimous support for a government-sponsored plan to promote home ownership by tenants and sharecroppers.

Hudgens, regional RA director here, announced last night the following persons would be present at today's conference:

J. E. Chappell, publisher of The News-Age-Herald, Birmingham; M. N. Dodson, of The Troy Messenger; Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute; and T. Roy Reid, RA region director from Little Rock; I. T. Quinn, commissioner of the department of conservation; A. G. Smith, of Columbia, S. C., who is representing Gov. Johnston; J. A. Texada, of Gainesville, Fla., representing retiring Gov. Dave Scholtz; Clifton Kirkpatrick, executive secretary, Farm Bureau, Montgomery; J. C. Holton, commissioner of agriculture, Jackson, Miss.; Stewart J. Lloyd, University of Alabama; T. Roy Reid, regional director, Resettlement Administration, Little Rock, Ark.; J. B. Hobdy, director vocational education, Montgomery; J. C. Cannon and G. T. Sargent, assistant supervisors of agricultural education, Montgomery; H. C. Nixon, chairman of Southern policy committee, Tulane University, Louisiana; Brooks Hays, vice-chairman Southern policy committee, Little Rock, Ark.; Steve Nance, Atlanta, Ga., president Georgia Federation of Labor; Charles Edwards, Auburn, secretary-treasurer, Alabama policy committee; Dr. L. N. Duncan, Auburn, president Alabama Polytechnic Institute and director of extension; Senator I. J. Browder president Alabama policy committee, and six members of the committee consisting of A. H. Collins, chairman, and Alabama commissioner of public welfare; J. F. Duggar, research professor, Alabama Polytechnic Institute; R. B. Draughon, Alabama extension service, Auburn; Walter Randolph, Alabama extension service, Auburn; Gould Beech, associated editor Montgomery Advertiser; C. H. Van de Graff, Tuscaloosa, Ala., and from South Carolina, L. P. Hollis, Greenville, and Bennett E. Greer, Furman University Greenville.

Because of an indicated heavier attendance than anticipated, it was announced that the meeting would be held at the Scottish Rite Temple, Dexter Avenue and Decatur Street, instead of at the Whitley Hotel. R. W. Hudgens, regional director of the Resettlement Administration, said the meeting would be open to the public and that everyone interested in farm tenancy was urged to attend.

The committee was scheduled to convene at 9:30 a.m. with W. W. Alexander, acting Resettlement Administration head, and L. C. Gray, secretary of the President's committee, presiding.

TENANT FARMING

To The Commercial Appeal:

The writer having once gnawed this bone of contention I feel entitles me to at least express my views. In my opinion, the present setup is just on the road to a permanent solution of this much mooted tenant question.

All this howl about the tenant question is bunk. It is no better or worse than has been for a hundred years, except for the fact the Bankhead law threw so many of them out that their cry activated the new dealers who were abroad in the land and new dealers are long on racket, so it put them in a huddle. Tenants are just as essential in the south as cornbread and molasses and if given a fair deal will in the future, as in the past produce a livelihood for themselves and a profit for the landlord. Before trying to make a landlord of him overnight, it would be wise to take a tab on the present bunch of landlords. I feel safe in saying that 75 per cent of them in West Tennessee are in a manner renting their farms of the Federal Land Bank of Louisville, Ky., and a few other loan companies. Isn't it just as reasonable to undertake to make a master of every servant, and wholesalers or jobbers of all small grocery men like me and thousands of others as to try to make landlords of tenants? I pause to ask after a period of years of land or soil conservation when our farms become rich and fertile, what will we do when four blades grow where only one now grows unless we set it in persimmons and organize whisling contests?

Now isn't that foolish? Yet it is just as wise as some projects that have been pulled with taxpayers' money. Suppose we gather up the government as best we can, send it back to Washington, everyone get out of the way and let Henry do it. Borrow a Georgia marble company's slogan by declaring what America makes, makes America. Produce everything we can, fill our stomachs once more, sell the surplus for what it will bring, pay the preacher and our taxes, then whistle out of the other corner of our mouth a while.

Our greatest trouble is we have hired too many people to tell us what to do. A woman could not even knit a sock with 500 people giving her as many different instructions. You couldn't even dig a well with too many workmen and there are so many of us idle we are getting in each other's way.

J. M. VADEN.

Halls, Tenn.

HOW CAN SOUTHERN FARMING PROSPER?

Agriculture in the South is not generally profitable, but Dr. Clarence Poe, publisher of The Progressive Farmer, believes it can be made profitable.

Discussing ways of helping farm families maintain a higher standard of living, Dr. Poe says:

"First of all, in my opinion, the South must quit paying freight costs and middlemen's costs on Northern and Western farm products we could grow ourselves. Take North Carolina, for example. It is probably better off in this respect than other Southern States whose cotton production is larger, yet the State agricultural college reported some time ago that of the food and feed products used in North Carolina the State imported from the North and West—

—1 out of every 4 ears of corn
—2 out of every 3 biscuit
—1 out of every 4 bales of hay
—1 out of every 3 pounds of beef
—5 out of every 6 mutton and lamb chops
—2 out of every 3 quarts of milk
—1 out of every 2 chickens and eggs.

"What we primarily need, of course, is not simply a 'live-at-home' policy so far as practicable for each individual farm, but we need to go further and supply also the needs of Southern towns and cities. As The Progressive Farmer has so often insisted, there are two great arms for producing agricultural wealth:

"1. Plant Production—any and all kinds of crops.

"2. Animal Production—livestock, dairying, poultry raising, etc.

"It is the curse of the South that we depend primarily on a one-armed system of farming—plant production alone. Take the 15 richest States in the Union and compare them with our 15 Southern States and what do we find? In the latest year for which I have compiled statistics these richest of all States produced only about the same crop values as our Southern States. In plant production we were not materially behind them. In animal production, however, they were 200 per cent ahead of us—an dhence 40 0per cent ahead of us in wealth per farm family. These richest States had a two-armed system of farming with plant production and animal production almost equally balanced. For each $5 they produce in crop values they produce $4.16 on livestock values. But here in the South for each $5 in crop values we produce only $1.76 in livestock values.

"To sum it all up: Our Southern people cannot maintain modern living standards without a more prosperous agriculture. And we shall not have a more prosperous agriculture until we add animal production—livestock, dairying, and poultry—to plant production."

RURAL EDUCATION

Returning to Atlanta from Montgomery, where he attended a southwide conference on farm tenancy, Columbus Roberts, Georgia's newly inducted commissioner of agriculture, gives strong indorsement to federal aid in financing rural schools on a 50-50 basis, as a means of doing away with the farm tenancy evil. Commissioner Roberts holds that—

If we accomplish anything with the farmer, we will have to start with his boy and girl. By raising their intelligence we will increase their pride and make them want to own their farms and homes.

Alexander H. Legge, chairman of the Hoover farm committee, voiced the same opinion when he resigned his position on the Farm Board, in declaring that the hope of bettering agricultural conditions rested with the boys and girls of the 4-H clubs of America.

The 4-H clubs, Future Farmers of America and similar smaller organizations are turning out graduates in better farming every year. Outgrowths of the corn, cotton, pig, cattle and other clubs that came into existence a quarter of a century back, the boys and girls who received expert training and instruction years ago are now the ones who are responsible for the upward surge in agriculture throughout the southeast.

They were instructed in modern methods early in life, and as they progressed toward maturity they buy farms on a long-term plan.

Agriculture -1937
Condition of.

General

Southern Leaders Here Today To Weigh Farm Tenant Puzzle

President Roosevelt's committee on farm tenancy arrives here today in its swing over the Nation to collect information and ideas on the subject of turning tenant farmers and sharecroppers into independent landowners.

Dr. L. C. Gray, assistant Federal resettlement administrator, will preside over today's round-table discussion after a conference tonight with R. W. Hudgens, regional resettlement administration director.

Gov. Graves urged a wide attendance of Southern industrial, financial and agricultural leaders at the conference, terming it one of vital social and economic importance to the South.

Bob Goode, Alabama's commissioner of agriculture, will be an ardent supporter of the plan at today's session—the second in a series of five at Dallas, Indianapolis, Lincoln, Neb., and San Francisco.

At Dallas Monday, tenants, landlords and farm organization spokesmen voiced almost unanimous support for a government-sponsored plan to promote home ownership by tenants and sharecroppers.

Hudgens, regional RA director here, announced last night the following persons would be present at today's conference:

J. E. Chappell, publisher of The News-Age-Herald, Birmingham; M. N. Dodson, of The Troy Messenger; Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute; and T. Roy Reid, RA region director from Little Rock; I. T. Quinn, commissioner of the department of conservation; A. G. Smith, of Columbia, S. C., who is representing Gov. Johnston; J. A. Texada, of Gainesville, Fla., representing retiring Gov. Dave Scholtz; Clifton Kirkpatrick, executive secretary, Farm Bureau, Montgomery; J. C. Holton, commissioner of agriculture, Jackson, Miss.; Stewart J. Lloyd, University of Alabama; T. Roy Reid, regional director, Resettlement Administration, Little Rock, Ark.; J. B. Hobdy, director vocational education, Montgomery; J. C. Cannon and G. T. Sargent, assistant supervisors of agricultural education, Montgomery; H. C. Nixon, chairman of Southern policy committee, Tulane University, Louisiana; Brooks Hays, vice-chairman Southern policy committee, Little Rock, Ark.; Steve Nance, Atlanta, Ga., president Georgia Federation of Labor; Charles Edwards, Auburn, secretary-treasurer, Alabama policy committee; Dr. L. N. Duncan, Auburn, president Alabama Polytechnic Institute and director of extension; Senator I. J. Browder president Alabama policy committee, and six members of the committee consisting of A. H. Collins, chairman, and Alabama commissioner of public welfare; J. F. Duggar, research director, Alabama Polytechnic Institute; R. B. Draughon, Alabama extension service, Auburn; Walter Randolph, Alabama extension service, Auburn; Gould Beech, associated editor Montgomery Advertiser; C. H. Van de Graff, Tuscaloosa, Ala., and from South Carolina, L. P. Hollis, Greenville, and Bennett E. Greer, Furman University Greenville.

Because of an indicated heavier attendance than anticipated, it was announced that the meeting would be held at the Scottish Rite Temple, Dexter Avenue and Decatur Street, instead of at the Whitley Hotel. R. W. Hudgens, regional director of the Resettlement Administration, said the meeting would be open to the public and that everyone interested in farm tenancy was urged to attend.

The committee was scheduled to convene at 9:30 a.m. with W. W. Alexander, acting Resettlement Administration head, and L. C. Gray, secretary of the President's committee, presiding.

TENANT FARMING

To The Commercial Appeal:

The writer having once gnawed this bone of contention I feel entitles me to at least express my views. In my opinion, the present setup is just on the road to a permanent solution of this much mooted tenant question.

All this howl about the tenant question is bunk. It is no better or worse than has been for a hundred years, except for the fact the Bankhead law threw so many of them out that their cry was heard, the new dealers who were a-broad in the land and new dealers are long on racket, so it put the boys a huddle. Tenants are just as essential in the south as cornbread and molasses and if given a fair deal will in the future as in the past produce a livelihood for themselves and a profit for the landlord. Before trying to make a landlord of him overnight, it would be wise to take a tab on the present bunch of landlords. I feel safe in saying that 75 per cent of them in West Tennessee are in a manner renting their farms of the Federal Land Bank of Louisville, Ky., and a few other loan companies. Isn't it just as reasonable to undertake to make a master of every servant, and wholesalers or jobbers of all small grocery men like me and thousands of others as to try to make landlords of tenants? I pause to ask after a period of years of land or soil conservation when our farms become rich and fertile, what will we do when four blades grow where only one now grows unless we set it in persimmons and organize whisling contests?

Now isn't that foolish? Yet it is just as wise as some projects that have been pulled with taxpayers' money. Suppose we gather up the government as best we can, send it back to Washington, everyone get out of the way and let Henry do it. Borrow a Georgia marble company's slogan by declaring what America makes, makes America. Produce everything we can, fill our stomachs once more, sell the surplus for what it will bring, pay the preacher and our taxes, then whistle out of the other corner of our mouth a while.

Our greatest trouble is we have hired too many people to tell us what to do. A woman could not even knit a sock with 500 people giving her as many different instructions. You couldn't even dig a well with too many workmen and there are so many of us idle we are getting in each other's way.

J. M. VADEN.

Halls, Tenn.

HOW CAN SOUTHERN FARMING PROSPER?

Agriculture in the South is not generally profitable, but Dr. Clarence Poe, publisher of The Progressive Farmer, believes it can be made profitable.

Discussing ways of helping farm families maintain a higher standard of living, Dr. Poe says:

"First of all, in my opinion, the South must quit paying freight costs and middlemen's costs on Northern and Western farm products we could grow ourselves. Take North Carolina, for example. It is probably better off in this respect than other Southern States whose cotton production is larger, yet the State agricultural college reported some time ago that of the food and feed products used in North Carolina the State imported from the North and West—

—1 out of every 4 ears of corn
—2 out of every 3 biscuit
—1 out of every 4 bales of hay
—1 out of every 3 pounds of beef
—5 out of every 6 mutton and lamb chops
—2 out of every 3 quarts of milk
—1 out of every 2 chickens and eggs.

"What we primarily need, of course, is not simply a 'live-at-home' policy so far as practicable for each individual farm, but we need to go further and supply also the needs of Southern towns and cities. As The Progressive Farmer has so often insisted, there are two great arms for producing agricultural wealth:

"1. Plant Production—any and all kinds of crops.

"2. Animal Production—livestock, dairying, poultry raising, etc.

"It is the curse of the South that we depend primarily on a one-armed system of farming—plant production alone. Take the 15 richest States in the Union and compare them with our 15 Southern States and what do we find? In the latest year for which I have compiled statistics these richest of all States produced only about the same crop values as our Southern States. In plant production we were not materially behind them. In animal production, however, they were 200 per cent ahead of us—an dhence 40 0per cent ahead of us in wealth per farm family. These richest States had a two-armed system of farming with plant production and animal production almost equally balanced. For each $5 they produce in crop values they produce $4.16 on livestock values. But here in the South for each $5 in crop values we produce only $1.76 in livestock values.

"To sum it all up: Our Southern people cannot maintain modern living standards without a more prosperous agriculture. And we shall not have a more prosperous agriculture until we add animal production—livestock, dairying, and poultry—to plant production."

RURAL EDUCATION

Returning to Atlanta from Montgomery, where he attended a southwide conference on farm tenancy, Columbus Roberts, Georgia's newly inducted commissioner of agriculture, gives strong indorsement to federal aid in financing rural schools on a 50-50 basis, as a means of doing away with the farm tenancy evil. Commissioner Roberts holds that—

If we accomplish anything with the farmer, we will have to start with his boy and girl. By raising their intelligence we will increase their pride and make them want to own their farms and homes.

Alexander H. Legge, chairman of the Hoover farm committee, voiced the same opinion when he resigned his position on the Farm Board, in declaring that the hope of bettering agricultural conditions rested with the boys and girls of the 4-H clubs of America.

The 4-H clubs, Future Farmers of America and similar smaller organizations are turning out graduates in better farming every year. Outgrowths of the corn, cotton, pig, cattle and other clubs that came into existence a quarter of a century back, the boys and girls who received expert training and instruction years ago are now ma-ture men and women. They are the ones who are responsible for the upward surge in agriculture throughout the southeast.

They were instructed in modern methods early in life, and as they progressed toward maturity they buy farms on a long-term plan.

THAD STEVENS' PROMISE AND ITS FULFILLMENT

Seventy-two years ago Thad Stevens promised the freed slaves that each would be given forty acres and a mule.

In the words of a Negro farmer at the hearings conducted here by the President's tenancy commission, "the Negroes of the South are still looking for that forty acres and a mule."

The day may not be far off when many Negroes in the South will reach that illusory goal.

Paradoxically it will not be through the efforts of spiritual heirs of old Thad, but through the efforts of the heirs of the Confederacy and a Democratic Party that is more truly national than any party in this nation's history since it came of age.

One of these leaders we mention—Senator John H. Bankhead, son of a captain of the Confederate army. He with the backing of hundreds of the South's leaders is seeking to provide forty acres and a mule for the descendants of men who brought back worn cavalry horses from Appomattox.

It has been a long time and a hard road. A milestone on that road was passed at the hearing here Wednesday.

They were all there.

One excellent old gentleman—he might have stepped from out of an era of the past, an age of white-columned porches and mint juleps—came from a vast plantation owned by his father before him. Tenant families live there that have been on the land for generations—as has his family.

Another present was a representative of the modern plantation, the manager of the world's largest cotton farm.

There were others, the representatives of tenant farm unions, men whose families have been seeking a way out for generations, men who complained of the humiliation of clothing their families in guano sacks. They were men who fought for Populism in a by-gone day, men who later followed Bryan, men who have followed illusions but have had little else to sustain them.

There were descendants of the slaves who were bilked because they had faith in what old Thad had promised and because they did not know the pieces of paper they bought from unscrupulous carpet-baggers were worthless. And there were disciples of Booker T. Washington there, men who have earned the respect and admiration of both races for their leadership.

All these were drawn together by a common interest. Landlord and tenant; Negro and white. They were supposed to confine their talks to suggestions for improving the Bankhead bill. But they talked about their relations with each other. They spoke of injuries extremists of their respective sides had inflicted on others in the years since old Thad made his promise.

And through it all one sensed the understanding that theirs was a common destiny.

Perhaps, as some claimed, the day when a man could work out his economic salvation in the South with forty acres and a mule is past. But it is worthy of a trial until a better answer is found.

Charleston, S. C. News & Courier
January 13, 1937

Thad Stevens's Promise and Its Fulfillment

(From The Montgomery Advertiser)

Seventy-two years ago Thad Stevens promised the freed slaves that each would be given forty acres and a mule.

In the words of a negro farmer at the hearings conducted here by the president's tenancy commission, "the negroes of the South are still looking for that forty acres and a mule."

The da ymay not be far off when many negroes in the South will reach that illusory goal.

Paradoxically it will not be through the efforts of spiritual heirs of old Thad, but through the efforts of the heirs of the Confederacy and a Democratic party that is more truly national than any party in this nation's history since it came of age.

One of these leaders we mention—Senator John H. Bankhead, son of a captain of the Confederate army. He with the backing of hundreds of the South's leaders is seeking to provide forty acres and a mule for the descendants of men who brought back worn cavalry horses from Appomattox.

It has been a long time and a hard road. A milestone on that road was passed at the hearing here Wednesday.

They were all there.

One excellent old gentleman—he might have stepped from out of an era of the past, an age of white-columned porches and mint juleps—came from a vast plantation owned by his father before him. Tenant families live there that have been on the land for generations—as has his family.

Another present was a representative of the modern plantation, the manager of the world's largest cotton farm.

There were others, the representatives of tenant farm unions, men whose families have been seeking a way out for generations, men who complained of the humiliation of clothing their families in guano sacks. They were men who fought for Populism in a by-gone day, men who later followed Bryan, men who have followed illusions but have had little else to sustain them.

There were descendants of the slaves who were bilked because they had faith in what old Thad had promised and because they did not know the pieces of paper they bought from unscrupulous carpet-baggers were worthless. And there were disciples of Booker T. Washington there, men who have earned the respect and admiration of both races for their leadership.

All these were drawn together by a common interest. Landlord and tenant; negro and white. They were supposed to confine their talks to suggestions for improving the Bankhead bill. But they talked about their relations with each other. They spoke of injuries extremists of their respective sides had inflicted on others in the years since old Thad made his promise.

And through it all one sensed the understanding that theirs was a common destiny.

Perhaps, as some claimed, the day when a man could work out his economic selvation in the South with forty acres and a mule is past. But it is worthy of a trial until a better answer is found.

Agriculture-1937

General

Condition of

COTTON: *First It's Credit Worry; Then It's Weather Worry*

Raising This Crop Is Like Gambling Your Fortune On Roulette Wheel

By Lev Flournoy
Scripps-Howard Staff Writer

For the planter cotton is a gamble. He puts all his chips at one spot on the board. King Cotton, the crouper, spins the ball. It races in its trough for seven long months and then it drops. He has won or lost.

This year most of them won, so the insistent sadness that comes to you when you look upon boundless rows of brown, brittle bushes as Winter comes to cotton lands is merely the sensation that goes with a sweeping eyeful of things that are dead.

It has no connotation of tragedy for the little unpainted cabins, closed against air that might better be admitted, nor for the white house in the clump of trees.

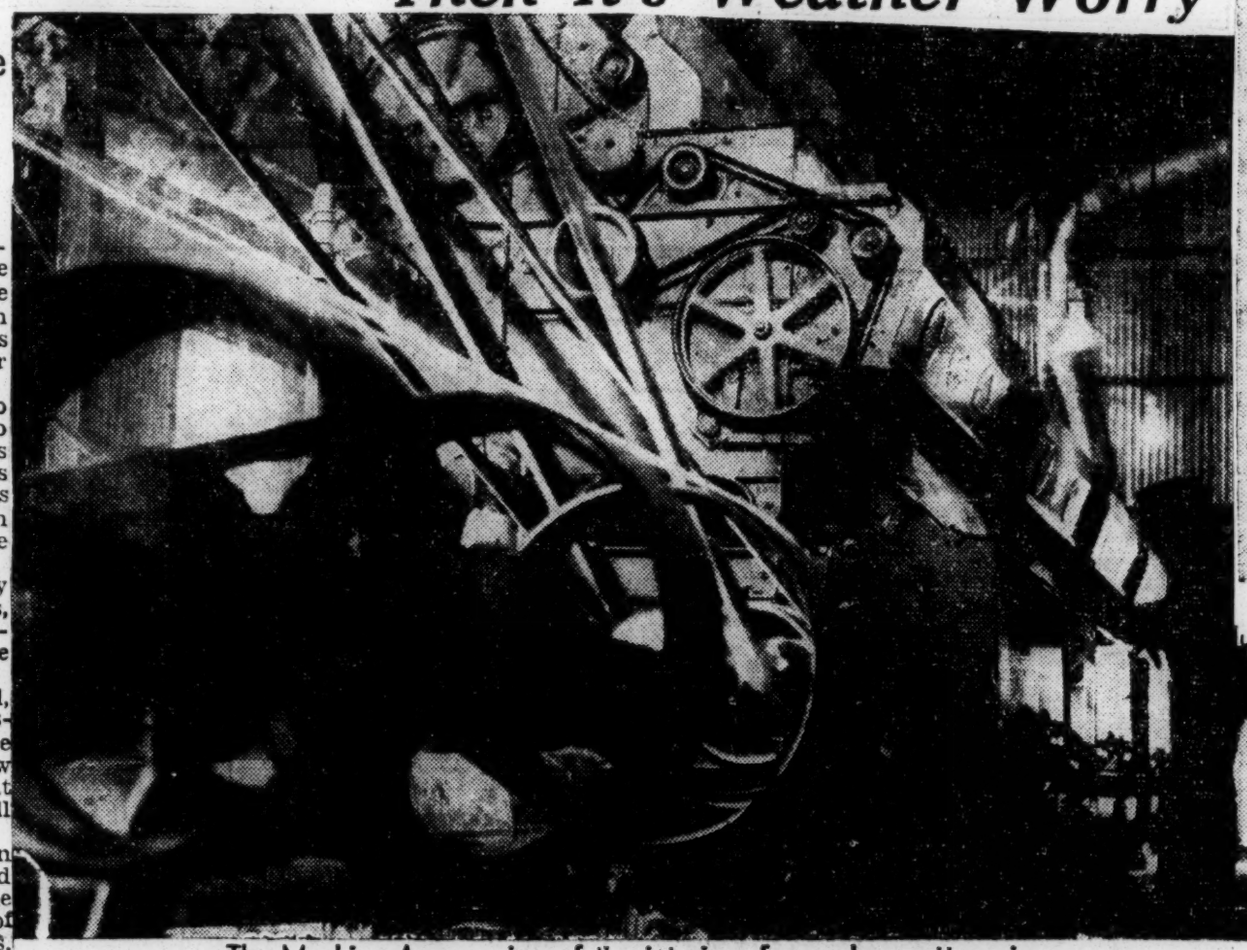
When the year has shot its yield, he cotton is on its way to Houston or New Orleans, and to the spinners at Manchester or the new factories that line the docks at Tokyo. But the plantation lies still and waits for another season.

That the planter in the seven long months that the ball spins and in the five that the land is idle doesn't have successive cases of nerves is due to a number of things. One thing is that he is a gambler, and, as such, is an incurable optimist. Another is that he hasn't the time to go cafarde.

It begins early in the year. To the bank the planter goes to "make arrangements." He estimates the amount of money he will need to carry his plantation through the season. His banker carefully reviews the record. How many acres last year? How much cotton? How much he cleared? How much he went in debt? Is there a mortgage on his holdings and how much? Improvements made? Improvements to be made? Implements and work stock he owns and needs? Is the place subject to overflow? What sort of a man the planter is? Industrious? Sober? Can he "handle" labor? How long have his croppers been with him? Is he eternally seeking new ones? There are many other questions, and then there is signed a mortgage on his crop secured by his land—and the planter has the money. The interest, of course, all things considered, is high.

* * *

PLANTERS' CROPS



The Machine Age: a view of the interior of a modern cotton gin.

FACE MANY HAZARDS

Back at his plantation, the planter puts the tenants, the renters, the croppers through a similar analysis which he has just undergone at the hands of the money lender.

Is he shiftless and lazy? Capable and industrious? How many are in his family? How many old enough to work? What did he do last year? Will he raise his own garden? How much he bought at the store? What his purchases represented? Food and sturdy clothing? Gimcracks, candy, hair straightener? How much cotton he raised? How much he picked? How long to pick it? Did he rest or seek day work in the Winter?

One by one they shuffle in and their allotment of acreage is issued. A cropper can take from 20 to 80 acres, depending on his record and his family. When the deals are made, the planter stands irrevocably bound to the bank whose money he has borrowed, irrevocably bound to the wholesaler who stocked his plantation store and hog-tied to the cropper and the soil.

On a 600-acre place he stands a chance to lose his entire return. From the very start the 200 people in the 40 families who will farm it look to him for clothing and for flood, 200 mouths open and held upward like young blackbirds in a nest. As long as the crop is in the field he is at their mercy. The crop may "go to pieces" at any time. Insect or other influences may indicate in July a deterioration of 25 per cent for September.

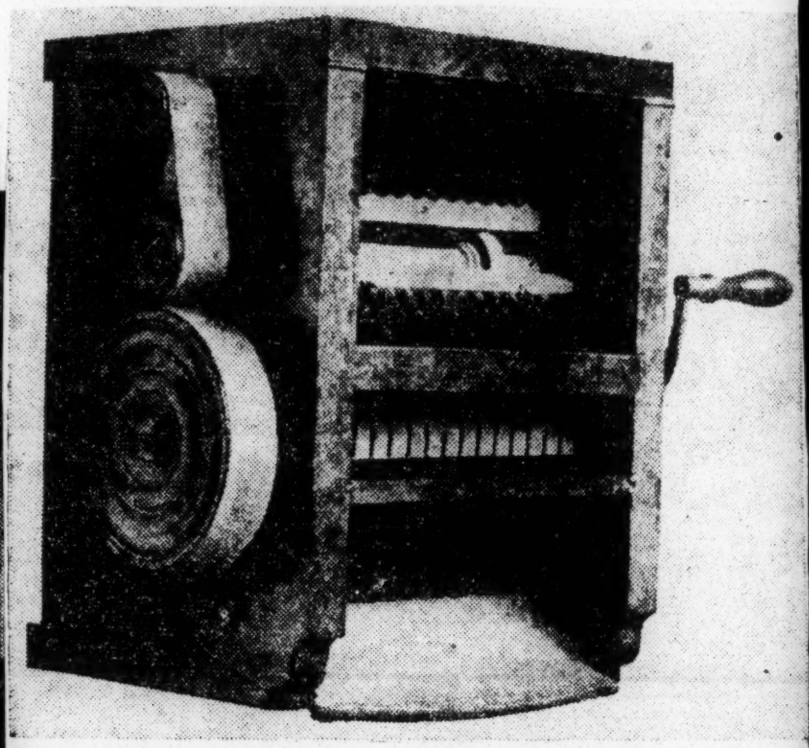
The cropper, discouraged by these things, may decide to move. Or he may simple get tired, with a bountiful prospect in the field, and decide to move. All he has to do, if that it may have a firm substance in which to grow.

The steps in cotton also include eternal vigilance, watching for the first signs of deterioration, watching the croppers after the plant has begun to grow to see that they do not neglect the plant, or neglect the garden, or themselves go down with chills and fever, watching the corn. This job for the most part is done by the "riding bosses," supervisors who eternally police the place on horseback. They are the salaried employes of the planter.

Others on salary are the labor which he employs at his store and on the acres he farms himself. Another employe is his chief assistant, generally a bookkeeper, who has a policing job of his own to do in seeing that croppers stay within their lines of credit, which fluctuates as their crops go better or worse.

Planting is done by hand, or with a mechanical planter. Chopping out is done with a hoe. It is a back breaking job, and its purpose is to clean the rows of surplus plants, so that there will be evenly spaced plants bearing the maximum number of bolls. In other words, the greatest amount of the healthiest fruit from the soil.

Laying by also is a one-man job for it involves the careful loosening and building of good earth against the roots of the plant. And chopping again is the process of hacking away the weeds that spring up or the deadly Johnson grass that grows, tough and seemingly indestructible, between the rows if you'll let it. Picking follows, and



And here is the first gin. Invented by Eli Whitney, it revolutionized cotton production and the textile industry.

he so decides, is to shut the door and call the dog. The planter can't forcibly bring him back. To do so is peonage. He can't collect the amount due him. To do so is a feat comparable to extracting blood from the turnip. The planter, facing these desertions, may make a desperate effort to recoup by sending his own day labor to the place, or employing another cropper and assigning him there—if he can find one. He may find these things impossible, and when he does the place goes to weeds and grass.

Allotments made, the planting soon begins. It may be late March or April, depending on the section of the belt.

* * *

WEATHER ALWAYS IMPORTANT ITEM

Weather crowds into the planter's horizon now. It takes the place of credit as his bugbear. Weather has to be right for plowing. After plowing is done, heavy rains may make it necessary for plowing to begin all over again.

The steps in cotton culture are plowing, planting, chopping out, laying by, more chopping against weeds, picking, hauling, ginning, hauling again.

The steps in cotton are more than these, for they include the "re's," replowing, replanting, the eternal chopping out of weeds after the plants have been thinned, a second laying by—the packing of the earth against each plant to

cotton is hauled to the gin in wagons, built up by a superstructure of 12-inch boards and estimated to hold, when filled, about 1600 pounds

of seed or unginned cotton.

In the early mornings of picking season the wagons line the roads to the plantation gin, or the nearby public gin that several plantations use. The gin is a steam or electrically driven saw-toothed set of rollers through which the seed cotton passes. It strips the seed from the cotton and separates the two, suction pipes carry the seed-free fleecy staple to one compartment, where it is baled, and the seed to another.

dicinal purposes, foods for man and beast, chemicals. For the linters the small, fine next-to-the seed strands, a trip to a compress, a trip to a steam or electri-factory, and a dubious career as a high explosive to kill men at war, to black rock from a canyon so that a dam might be built, to feed crops by other men who lead a safer life.

For cotton, a thousand myriad uses. For the seed, oils for me-

NEXT: Farmer Helpless to Control Prices.

COTTON: *This, Then, Is Life Of The Sharecropper*

Cornbread, Potlikker, Turnip Greens Are Typical Fare

By Lev Flournoy

The gamblers and the girls raced out of Memphis in the chill that comes before dawn. In the argot of the trade they were out to catch the air, and to catch the air means a run of 30 miles out No. 67 or No. 70 and back again.

Over the big bridge sped the big car. Down the center of the broad concrete that leads across the heavy fill in Crittenden County, called by its sheriff, defiant of outside criticism, "the free state of Crittenden," it continued.

On through the flickering lights of West Memphis, a long one-street town of tire shops and groceries and neon-lighted liquor stores. Into the swamp stretch and its ceaseless chorus of crickets and frogs and all the indescribable insects that live among the cypress knees.

On down the long road past the point where West Memphis tapers off into lumber yards and the plantations begin. A woman laughed a drunken laugh. A snatch of song came. A whisky bottle sailed from the back seat and crashed against a telephone pole. A Negro stood in the doorway of the cabin and rubbed his eyes. A bell tolled somewhere, a steady, monotonous ding-dong, calling the hands. Lights went on at widely scattered spots in the darkness as the cabins came to life. On raced the car. People in the cabins stirred and came out.

* * *

COTTON MADE IT ALL POSSIBLE

Now the car is racing back to Memphis. The outlines of the city's buildings loom but faintly tthrough the mist that rises from the river and the hollows back of the cotton fields.

From the cabins which were part of the night as the car went out come more lights, plainly kerosene lamps. Outlines of cabins near the road are visible. The breakfast smoke spirals from their rickety mud chimneys.

The Negro who stood in the doorway already is in the field, walking slowly between the rows of whitening cotton, dragging a long white sack. With him are others. The picking has begun again. The field hands' day—from dawn to dark, from "can to can't"—has started.

Cotton fiber gave strength to the tires that sped the rositerers' car along the highway. Cotton wraps the telephone wires that hum with a strange sound overhead. Cotton paid for the silk that came from Japan that the laughing woman wore. Cotton paid for the manganese that's part of the barrel of the gambler's gun securely tucked in the pocket of the car, and the pocket of the car is made of cotton.

The sharecropper, product of generations. On the porch of this Mississippi cabin are an ex-slave, smoking his pipe, his grown children, his young grandchildren, their lives little changed from slavery days, save that now millions of white tenants have been added to their numbers.

The lights of Memphis are shining more clearly through the morning mist. Before the lighted window in the tallest building sits a telegraph operator watching a ticker, and the ticker tells him what Liverpool offers for cotton.

* * *

LIVERPOOL HAS THE FIRST SAY IN PRICE

And what does Liverpool say? Liverpool says October 12.65, and that means that Liverpool, up about business for these seven hours, has heard from the Argentine and Shanghai, and from Egypt and India and Moscow, and from all the English spinners who know or think they know what all the towns in England and the far-flung British Empire will need for dresses and sheets, and whether Hindus before the bazars at Amritsar are passive enough to buy new dhoties or prosperous enough to replace their turbans, and if the Russians will raise enough cotton to supply blouses for the Moujiks in the fields.

Later the American markets open and the network of cotton-wrapped wires sing. There is a report that a much-needed rain has fallen in Texas and cotton sags from 12.65 to 12.15, and Liverpool unloads and Memphis says October 12.05, and then Mussolini or Hitler says something or does something and October climbs to 12.45 and so it goes.

But Anthony Johnson, who stood in the doorway and saw the gamblers' car, knows nothing of this. His job is to pick cotton. His barefooted wife joins him, and soon four children. It's late September, but there is no school now, for school in the cotton-picking rural sections fits its terms to suit cotton picking.

* * *

PICKING REPRESENTS A TREMENDOUS TASK

Cotton picking time calls for King Cotton's only splurge in labor. An average hand can pick 150 pounds in a day. It requires 1600 pounds to make a 500-pound bale—1100 pounds of it being seed. So one man or woman, or a tireless child, can pick a bale in about 10 days. Inasmuch as this year's rather short crop is 11,100,000 bales, the magnitude of the job is at once apparent.

The riding boss rides on to see how the other pickers are progressing, to keep a watchful eye on the men shanghaied from the places when men loaf while cotton cries for action.

The riding boss rides off again, cursing the Agricultural Adjustment Administration, which he blames for the sharecropper strike, and the Works Progress Administration, which makes certain people fearsome of seasonal labor, and the whole notion of a more abundant life which has permeated plantations and forced cotton picking prices up from 35 to 50 cents, to 75 to 90 cents.

But Anthony Johnson and his brood pick cotton.

* * *

THE DAY OF A TYPICAL SHARECROPPER FARMER

Anthony rose from a corn shuck mattress on a rickety bed. His home is a three-room cabin, old and unpainted. It rests upon blocks made from the sections of a tree trunk. Across the front is a porch of worn planks. In front are two uneven blocks of cross-ties that serve as steps. The roof, like the porch, sags and looks as though at any minute its two-by-four supports might fail it.

A few dilapidated chairs are in the cabin. A tin trunk with a rounded top tightly locked. A rusty pot bellied stove, its legs resting on bricks.

Anthony and his family live mainly in the kitchen in the Winter, basking in the intense heat of the kitchen stove, with all doors and windows closed. A plain pine table. A dirty oilcloth. An old kitchen safe jammed with dishes and left-over food and odds and ends. A shelf against the wall. More dishes. More odds and ends. A battery of patent medicine bottles. A box in the corner. A bucket and a dipper. A cheap mirror. A towel on a hook. A wash basin under the towel.

For breakfast Anthony had coffee and sugar and grits and gravy and some biscuits made with flour and baking powder and water

Some mornings he has an egg, or if there are two eggs, he has them both. At noon there will be cornbread and turnip greens and sidemeat and all the potlicker he can handle. At night he will get cold turnip greens, more cornbread, more coffee, and the crisply fried slices of salt pork that are good for the system if you can chew them.

Anthony is better off than most sharecroppers, not so well fixed as quite a few of them. For one thing he has several chickens. For another he made a garden, and in the long Summer days when raising cotton could be called a waiting and watching job, he sneaked hours away from it and worked among his vegetables.

* * *

SOME 'CROPPERS LIVE IN COMPARATIVE EASE

You can go into the South and find anything you want to prove anything you like. The sharecroppers whose children are so undernourished that they look old and wrinkled before their childhood has fully begun are there.

The eights and nines and tens—in a two-room house are there. The shiftless and idle and worthless can be found. Every now and then you can find a few who live in comparative comfort. Generally, the most of them are like Anthony, trapped in a system for which no man living and none recently dead is wholly responsible. Generally, like Anthony, they have fatal drawbacks that will keep them from independence if independence is ever offered.

If it isn't a complete surrender to dependence, it's a satisfaction with squalor and a general worthlessness. If it's neither, it's a lack of education, and if it isn't that, it's a condition of health, inherited or acquired, or a matter of character. Anthony is neither the worst nor the best. He's a little better than the average, which is bad enough.

Agriculture -1937
Condition of

General.

THE SOUTH TODAY

King Cotton and Neutrality

By S. D. MYRES, JR.

(Copyright 1936, by Southern Newspaper Syndicate)

Editor's Note: S. D. Myres, Jr., is director of the Arnold Foundation and the Institute of Public Affairs at Southern Methodist University. He is a member of the Southern regional committee of the Social Science Research Council, and of the Southern Policy Commtitee. Dr. Myres holds a diploma from the Graduate School of International Studies at Geneva, and is the author of numerous articles dealing with the problems of the South and international questions.

The South has a peculiar interest in the permanent program of neutrality now being considered by congress. While the temporary act, which expires May 1, includes restrictions only on loans, credits and munitions, the new legislation is almost certain to contain provisions regulating the sale of raw materials in time of war. The immediate concern of the South with the proposed law lies in the possible limitation of exports of cotton and oil in the event of hostilities abroad.

As is well known, the production and marketing of cotton is the basic industry of the southern states, an industry on which millions of their people depend, directly or indirectly, for a livelihood. The petroleum industry, it is true, has become increasingly important in recent years with the development of the oil fields of Texas, Oklahoma, Louisiana and Arkansas. But as yet the bulk of the petroleum produced is consumed in the United States, whereas approximately 60 per cent of the cotton grown in the South is exported.

What would be the effect on the Southern economy of a limited or complete embargo on shipments of cotton to belligerents? No informed person would deny the importance of this question. On the other hand, no one can answer it in a clear-cut and satisfactory manner, for the simple reason that all the conditions under which the embargo might be applied cannot be anticipated.

Three Possible Courses

In its essentials, the problem involves a choice among three possible courses of action. The first of these is the pre-war policy of neutrality, in accordance with which we insisted on trading freely with the belligerent nations; but this old conception of freedom of the seas is now rather generally discredited. The second possibility rests in international action for peace—but this conception has also grown vague in a world constantly disturbed by men like Hitler, Mussolini and the militarists of Japan.

The remaining choice for our country is a program of strict neutrality. It is not relevant at the present time to insist that a thoroughgoing program of neutrality would be only a continuation of our selfish policy of isolation. The world has changed much since Wilson's time and since the days of Briand and Stresemann. At present, with the world disorganized as it is, apparently the most valuable contribution which we can make to the cause of peace is to withhold our credit and resources from any nation which goes to war. Such action would odubtless entail immediate sacrifices on our part, but it would pay dividends in the long run.

For the South, particularly, the maintenance of world peace and the abstentation of our nation from war are matters of basic importance. If both objectives cannot be achieved by means of American neutrality, certainly the latter can. In an article contributed to this series a year ago, I made the point that the profits which the Southern people earned from their war-time trade, both before and after we joined the allies, were illusory and were more than wiped out by the depression which followed as a natural result of the economic dislocations caused by the war. So far as I know, this conclusion has not been challenged, and I still feel that it is valid.

Those in the South who most violently oppose any restriction on exports of cotton in time of war rely upon what I consider to be a fallacious assumption. It is that the maximum production and sale of cotton is essential to the well-being of the region. This Manchesterian doctrine is especially pernicious when applied to traffic in an agricultural product like cotton; for the cotton industry of the South is subject to unusual hazards from fluctuation of prices, and can be maintained only by the exploitation of our land resources and our supply of human labor.

The war demonstrated strikingly the unfortunate dependence of cotton prices on foreign influences. In July, 1914, cotton was selling for more than 13 cents a pound on the New York market. Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia on July 28. By August 3, every cotton exchange in the United States was closed indefinitely. When the New York exchange reopened Nov. 17, spot cotton was priced at 7 1-2 cents.

S. D. MYRES, JR.

Thus, as Peter Molyneaux has so well said, "A war on the other side of the world, a war with which the American cotton producers had had nothing to do whatever, destroyed more than $400,000,000 of the value of their cotton practically over night!"

After our nation entered the war, the price of cotton soared to 40 cents a pound, and the Southern farmer seemed to be enjoying great prosperity. His good fortune, however, was short-lived and illusory, for between August, 1920, and February 1921, cotton dropped to 12 cents a pound, a loss of $140 a bale. The South was again completely prostrated. But by December, 1923, the price of cotton had risen to 32 cents a pound, and this led to an unprecedented expansion of production both in the United States and abroad. Then came the depression. The price which producers received for cotton fell from 18 cents in 1928-1929 to 6 1-2 cents in 1932-1933, and their gross income from cotton and cotton seed declined from $1,470,000,000 to $483,912,000. The income of the average cotton-growing family in the South was thus reduced from approximately $735 to $242. This condition made action by the national government imperative. In its farm-relief program of 1933, 10,500,000 acres of cotton were retired from production and $112,500,000 was paid to farmers in the plow-up campaign.

Vulnerable System

It thus appears that the cotton economy of the South, as it now functions, is vulnerable at its very heart, for it is continually subject to unexpected fluctuations in the prices paid for its product. The cotton farmer never knows whether he will make a profit from his year's crop, but the chances are increasingly against the brighter prospect. Who can say that the economic system of the South is on a basis which must be preserved at all costs when such a condition exists?

The trouble, however, does not end at this point. The growing of cotton for export has exhausted the vitality of millions of acres of land in the South. Cotton culture is an extractive industry, depriving the soil of its life-giving humus. Today in the older cotton-growing regions of the southeast, fertilizer constitutes 40 per cent of the operating costs of farms. Erosion is a natural result of this exhaustion of the soil. Already in the South, 97,000,000 acres of farm lands have been denuded of their top soil, and much of this land can never be restored. The history of the cotton industry centers about its slow but steady trek from the Atlantic seaboard westward to the Panhandle of Texas and Oklahoma, consuming the soil of one belt and moving on the other. The waste of our land resources in this fashion is one of the great tragedies of our national experience, and it has been caused by our blindly holding fast to an economic way of life established under frontier conditions which antedated the Civil war.

And what of the social consequences of this system, which some in the South would safeguard and perpetuate, even at the risk of again involving the nation in war? Farm tenancy has become a major problem of our region. Until recently few of us stopped to consider the deplorable position of the 1,791,000 tenant families of the cotton belt. We accepted the low economic and social status of the tenant as a natural phenomenon. We assumed that he was born lazy, was congenially inferior, and had a naturally low resistance to the hookworm and pellagra. His dirty one-room hut and his diet of sow-belly, cornbread and molasses were regarded as his by choice and as the reward of his slothfulness. But we now know that the tenant from the outset has been the victim of our economic system. It is he who has borne the brunt of fluctuating cotton prices and the suffering they have entailed, he who has been indentured to soil which has gradually lost its productivity and left him empty-handed and hungry. None too soon is the national government coming to his rescue with its present program of relief.

Need Balanced Program

In the face of such circumstances, the arguments of those who oppose a policy of neutrality on the ground that it might interfere with our wholesale export of cotton, seems rather lame and short-sighted. Must the South continue to be a mere colonial appendage of Europe and Japan? Must we continue to jeopardize our peace and well-being in order to supply the world with unlimited quantities of cotton fiber at ruinous prices determined by conditions in Egypt, India and other backward countries?

These questions not only should be, but are being, answered in the negative. King Cotton faces the necessity of abdicating his American throne and finding his subjects abroad. The expansion of cotton culture in India, Brazil, Russia and elsewhere has been so rapid since 1929 that today 60 per cent of the world's annual crop is produced outside the United States. In addition, rayon and other substitutes for cotton are being increasingly employed. The future of the South will depend not on the restoration of its leadership in cotton production (for seemingly that is impossible even if it were desirable), but on the ability of the region to balance its economy so as to take full advantage of its remarkable natural resources. Diversification in agriculture, rotation of crops, homeownership of tenants, and the development of handicrafts to make the people of the South self-supporting and free from the old economic regime which all these years has kept them impoverished and insecure. The policy of neutrality now being formulated in Washington should by no means interfere with this program, but on the contrary should give it stimulation, support and direction.

KESTER DENOUNCES
PLANTERS' TERROR, URGES
NEGRO-WHITE UNITY

Crusader News Agency 4-5-37

AUSTIN, Tex., April--(By Elaine Ellis for CNA)- The most crucial situation confronting the Southern sharecroppers, Negro and white, is what will become of them, Howard Kester, organizer for the Southern Tenant Farmers Union, statedhere in an address sponsored by the Austin Open Forum.

New York, N.Y.

President Roosevelt's farm tenantry plan has been characterised by the union as "inadequate" because it will not lift the cultural and economic level of these people, he declared. Afew men would be raised to the status of landowners, but the majority of these people would be left in the same plight as before, Mr. Kester asserted, adding that the village or cooperative plan has been recommended by the union as being the only sensible plan by which the cultural and economic status of the sharecroppers can be lifted.

In this manner, the speaker said, the people could get the best scientific and technical advice, and they would be able to have hospitals, schools and other necessary advantages which they must have if they are to overcome disease and illiteracy. The success of two experimental f colonies now in operation, one being the Mississippi Delta, was mentioned.

Terrorism against the sharecroppers, instigated by the landlords, planters and puty sheriffs, was explained by Mr. Kester as something that may be expected whe oppressed men go in opposition to their political and economic bosses.

"There is a need for protest against the tyranny and terrorism practiced aga our own class, Negro and white," he said. "The time has come to recognize that Negro is our brother, and that we cannot continue to reject him. To do so is to condemn our own children and make their's a life much more hideous than the one we know today."

Again referring to the need of the croppers for the very things which they a demanding and organizing to get, Mr. Kester challenged: "The hour has arrived f us to assert ourselves for these things."

BANKHEAD CARRIES ON FARM TENANCY FIGHT

Commercial Appeal

Senator Prefers Death of Bill Rather Than "Gesture"

LAND OWNERSHIP IS AIM

5-23-37

Alabama Leader Studies Condition In Neighborhood of Jasper—Return To Washington Planned This Week

Memphis, Tenn.

By The Associated Press.

JASPER, Ala., May 22.—Senator John H. Bankhead, father of farm tenancy proposals before Congress prefers to see his measure die rather than to have it reduced to "a gesture."

Discussing a suggestion that the appropriation be trimmed to $10,000,000 as part of the "economy program," he said such a small sum would not be sufficient to begin a program to purchase small farms, and sell them to tenants at low interest rates and on long-term payment plans.

Land For Security

"This is not a proposal to spend money," he said. "It is an investment of money that will return to the treasury. Even those tenants who prove unable to pay for their farms can't destroy the land. We'll still have it for security."

As introduced by Senator Bankhead, the farm tenancy bill would appropriate $50,000,000 yearly to be used in raising tenants to land ownership.

"I won't believe the president has abandoned the farm tenancy program," Senator Bankhead said.

"Loans made by the RFC, the HOLC and other government agencies are being repaid rapidly," he stated. "We can reinvest enough of this money to take care of the farm tenancy program, without placing any burden on the treasury."

Back to Capital

Senator Bankhead expects to return to Washington next week to resume his battle for enactment of farm tenancy legislation before the current session of Congress adjourns.

"This program is one which provides a permanent remedy," he said, "and is no part of temporary, emergency relief measures. If we can make small land-owners of the large tenant class on our farms, we will have the best insurance of internal peace and prosperity any nation ever had.

"Home ownership intensifies patriotism, generates better citizenship, preserves good domestic relations and provides a family circle for security and development."

During his stay here the senator has visited tenant families, discussing his proposal with them.

He declined comment on the new AAA control bill, now before Congress, pending a thorough study o the measure.

Agriculture-1937
Condition of

General.

THE SOUTH TODAY

Farms and Factories in the South

By BOOTH MOONEY

(Copyright, 1936, by Southern Newspaper Syndicate)

Editor's Note.—Booth Mooney is associate editor of the Texas weekly, Dallas. He has engaged in newspaper work since he was a boy, and has contributed articles to a number of nationally prominent magazines. Mr. Mooney has devoted much study during the past two years to the new problems created by the growth of industry in the South.

Industrial decentralization is causing a steadily increasing number of smokestacks to appear on the southern hoizon. Unquestionably, the South is now undergoing a noteworthy industrial development, and all indications are that this development will continue at an accelerated pace during the years ahead.

The various factors causing industries heretofore centered in the north and east to look to the South as a suitable site for their plants are pretty well understood. Prominent among these factors is the belief of the industrialists that they have a chance in the South of escaping, for a time at least, serious labor troubles. Too, industrial executives recognize the economic wisdom of shifting their plants from thickly populated territories, where production costs often are excessively high and transportation charges are an item compelling serious thought, to a region which offers many adventages unequaled elsewhere in the country. Manufacturers cannot help seeing that the South has amazing diversity of natural resources. They see that it offers reasonable property values—excellent and varied transportation facilities—the advantages of rural communities for factory workers. In short, industry is moving into the South because the men behind industry believe it is a sensible thing to do.

These reasons for the southward movement of industry are, as I say, rather widely understood. They are outlined here only in order to establish a background for discussing a question that is of vital concern to all the people of the South.

* * *

How About Agriculture?

The question is this: How will the further industrialization of the South affect the agricultural status of the region?

Obviously, this question is a highly pertinent one at this particular time. It is one that calls for the most deliberate consideration by the people of the South. And it should be considered now. For the answer to that question will help the South to determine what kind of industries it really wants and will establish a basis for efforts to secure those particular types of industry. That is why every state in the South should give attention to the question of how the southern farm will be affected by the southern factory.

Thoughtful observers have not lost sight of the indisputable fact that the South is still predominantly an agricultural region. They point out further that, in view of its vast area of fertile farming land, its usually adequate rainfall, its trained farmers, and its many other advantages, the South would prove itself foolish indeed if it did not plan to continue to be predominantly an agricultural region. They are, I think, quite right about that. Assuredly, it would be most deplorable if a great many southern farmers should decide to sell their farming implements as scrapiron and allow their land to lie idle while they marched off to the newly established manufacturing plants in search of employment. But I do not think this will happen.

My opinion is that agriculture and industry will have no difficulty in existing—and prospering—side by side in the South. Agriculture will continue to be of the utmost importance as factories grow thicker. The coming of more factories will not have an adverse effect on the status of agriculture. As a matter of fact, it seems to me that the effect will be highly beneficial. Southern farmers will receive numerous direct benefits from the establishment of more manufacturing enterprises, and they will receive many other benefits of an indirect, but no less real, nature. Agriculture, in brief, will profit greatly if the current movement of industry toward the South continues in the manner anticipated.

* * *

Gain in Population

High on the list of direct benefits must be placed the gain in population—an employed population—that will come with more widespread industrialization. This will mean, first of all, that a closer and more immediate market will be provided for farm products. It will mean more consumers in the South for goods, grown on southern farms. This closer market will mean that the South—without, let me emphasize, any approach to self-sufficiency, or any desire to approach that highly unrealistic state—need not be so completely dependent on conditions elsewhere for the well-being of its farmer.

Along with this point, it is in order to mention the fact that new industries will make profitable a larger production of agricultural specialties: vegetables, fruits, berries, grapes and so on. The establishment over the South of canning plants to process such products would mean a great deal to agriculture. The South has numerous natural advantages in the production of these agricultural specialties, and if it were profitable to do so, southern farmers could produce a much larger supply of them than they now produce. And it is certainly reasonable to think that a number of well equipped canning plants in the region would make this increased production profitable. This is, let me say, more than a theory, for a sufficient number of canneries is already operating in states of the South to demonstrate the great value of such enterprises.

Here is a very direct and tangible way in which Southern agriculture profits as a result of industrialization. Incidentally, canning plants would be excellent industries for some of the hundreds of small towns scattered through the South. In such towns the canneries are close to the farms from which their raw materials are obtained, and their location in the towns helps to avert the dangers attending too much concentration of industry in the large cities.

* * *

Widen Home Market

Quantity production, coupled with an ever-widening market, has made America's industry undoubtedly the greatest in the world. It seems to me that the same principle will work out in agriculture. Indeed, it has already worked out in the South in **the growing of cotton. The South** has the facilities, both of land and of men, for raising other agricultural products on as large a scale as has already been reached in the production of cotton. And while the matter of a market for much of the South's cotton must depend on the gyrations of world trade, the bringing of more industries to the South offer an excellent method of widening the home market for other farm products. Industrialism of the South serves the double purpose of bringing more people—more consumers—to the region itself, and of creating new means of placing Southern farm products in the homes of millions of families all over the country. That is why agriculture in the South will grow, rather than diminish in importance with the continuation and acceleration of the present industrial trend.

At the same time that the farmer discovers a larger and more constant market for the agricultural specialties, he will find that the bringing of new industries to the South results in his securing the advantages of lower prices on many of the things he must buy. This is not paradoxical. It is nothing more than plain common sense to assume that a plow, for instance, manufactured in the South, can be sold to a Southern farmer at a lower price than one manufactured in the North or East. Transportation is one factor that enters into this, but it is not by any means the only one. There are such other considerations as the relative costs of living in the North or East and the South, the difference in taxes and initial investments of the industries, and the difference in maintenance expeses. The plow is, of course, used only as an example; the same principle applies to many other articles and products used by Southern farmers.

* * *

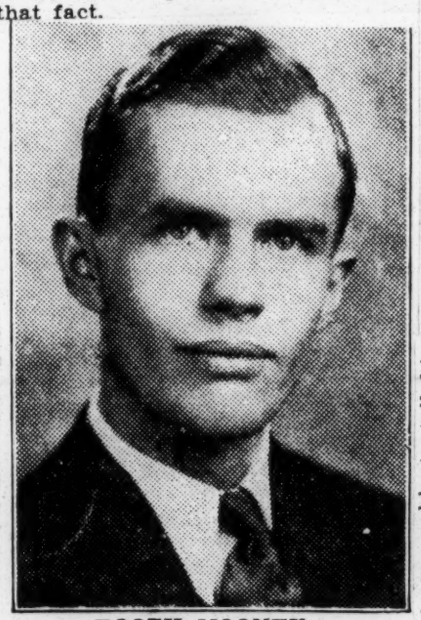
Supplement Incomes

Consideration must be accorded, also, to the probability that some farmers will obtain part-time employment in various kinds of factories at certain seasons of the year. No one wants to turn the southern farmer into a full-time industrial worker, but there is no denying that tenant farmers in particular, and "hired hands" who have farm employment during only a part of the year would welcome the opportunity to supplement their incomes by such work. Here, again, enter the benefits accruing to al lthe South from a continuously employed class of workers. That would mean, as I have indicated, a more constant and reliable market for many of the products of the southern farmer than he now enjoys.

All these gains that logically may be expected to come to agriculture as a result of continued industrialization are bound together. Each one affects the other. And when all of them are considered, it is easy to understand how great is the stake of agriculture in the more compelte industrialization of the South.

As to the possibility that any great number of southern farmers will give up farming to work in factories—well, farming is generally agreed to be about as much a state of mind as a state of being, and it may be said with confidence that thousands upon thousands of southern farmers, an overwhelming majority of them, have no desire to make their livings in any other way than by farming. But that occupation can be made more profitable by the establishment in the region of soundly based industries, and the farmers, we may be sure, will have no objection to that.

In short, no conflicts of interests exist in the South between agriculture and industry. And there ought to be a widespread recognition of that fact.



BOOTH MOONEY

Sees Destiny In Test Tubes

South Must Look to Chemistry to Prosper

SAYS T. H. ALEXANDER

FOR MANY years I have been writing on how the chemurgic chemist can bring us into our promised land in the south. When the day finally dawns that our southern farm products can be turned into factory products then in truth will the south become the richest land in the world.

T. H. Alexander

Occasionally, someone asks me: "How can the work of chemurgic chemists in the south be coordinated and correlated so that industry may obtain the use and benefit of his efforts?"

I do not know the answer to that, except that many worthwhile dis-

Carver was able to tell him Works Progress Administration here is a definite use for telling of the success of the starch peelings. In a short time this manufacturing plant at Laurel, will receive an expert report Miss., which was started as a FERA Dr. Carver advising the man-work project three years ago. at just how to use these peel- Now one of the hard roads che- Whatever he makes out of murgic chemistry has to travel is elings will be a by-product; the highway of hard facts. Unless be wealth created where the synthetic process can compete was no useful wealth before with some older commercial pro- appens that upon my arrival ess, it is no good. after the visit to Tuskegee, I Unless Dr. Herty can prod a press release from the

I spent the day last Sunday at Tuskegee Institute, which is the home of one of the greatest of all the creative chemists—Dr. George W. Carver, a negro. While I was there it happened that a man came who wanted to find the answer to a perplexing question. This man operated a sweet potato

Found Use for Peelings

He did not know where, but he had heard that Dr. Carver recalled reading that Dr. Carver had made years of research into the use of sweet potatoes in the manufacture of starch, glue and other kindred products. So he made a trip to Tuskegee to find out.

agement just how to use the peelings. What he found himself throw-that there in Alabama. Ev-Dr. Carver was a wayery season he found hundreds of tons of sweet these peelings of everyday away hundreds of tons of potato peelings. Was there not some use for these peelings?

I spent the day last Sunday at the home of Dr. Carver, and invariably always have to do with the world somewhere in South Alabama. Ev-Dr. Carver was able to tell him of chemistry always have to do with the world somewhere in South Alabama. Ev-Dr. Carver was able to tell him of the creative chemists—Dr. George W. Carver, a negro. While I was there it happened that a man came who wanted to find the answer to a perplexing question. This man operated a sweet potato

General.

Agriculture-1937
Condition of

THE SOUTH TODAY

Farms and Factories in the South

By BOOTH MOONEY

(Copyright, 1936, by Southern Newspaper Syndicate)

Editor's Note.—Booth Mooney is associate editor of the Texas weekly, Dallas. He has engaged in newspaper work since he was a boy, and has contributed articles to a number of nationally prominent magazines. Mr. Mooney has devoted much study during the past two years to the new problems created by the growth of industry in the South.

Industrial decentralization is causing a steadily increasing number of smokestacks to appear on the southern hoizon. Unquestionably, the South is now undergoing a noteworthy industrial development, and all indications are that this development will continue at an accelerated pace during the years ahead.

The various factors causing industries heretofore centered in the north and east to look to the South as a suitable site for their plants are pretty well understood. Prominent among these factors is the belief of the industrialists that they have a chance in the South of escaping, for a time at least, serious labor troubles. Too, industrial executives recognize the economic wisdom of shifting their plants from thickly populated territories, where production costs often are excessively high and transportation charges are an item compelling serious thought, to a region which offers many adventages unequaled elsewhere in the country. Manufacturers cannot help seeing that the South has amazing diversity of natural resources. They see that it offers reasonable property values—excellent and varied transportation facilities—the advantages of rural communities for factory workers. In short, industry is moving into the South because the men behind industry believe it is a sensible thing to do.

These reasons for the southward movement of industry are, as I say, rather widely understood. They are outlined here only in order to establish a background for discussing a question that is of vital concern to all the people of the South.

* * *

How About Agriculture?

The question is this: How will the further industrialization of the South affect the agricultural status of the region?

Obviously, this question is a highly pertinent one at this particular time. It is one that calls for the most deliberate consideration by the people of the South. And it should be considered now. For the answer to that question will help the South to determine what kind of industries it really wants and will establish a basis for efforts to secure those particular types of industry. That is why every state in the South should give attention to the question of how the southern farm will be affected by the southern factory.

Thoughtful observers have not lost sight of the indisputable fact that the South is still predominantly an agricultural region. They point out further that, in view of its vast area of fertile farming land, its usually adequate rainfall, its trained farmers, and its many other advantages, the South would prove itself foolish indeed if it did not plan to continue to be predominanty an agricultural region. They are, I think, quite right about that. Assuredly, it would be most deplorable if a great many southern farmers should decide to sell their farming implements as scrapiron and allow their land to lie idle while they marched off to the newly established manufacturing plants in search of employment. But I do not think this will happen.

My opinion is that agriculture and industry will have no difficulty in existing—and prospering—side by side in the South. Agriculture will continue to be of the utmost importance as factories grow thicker. The coming of more factories will not have an adverse effect on the status of agriculture. As a matter of fact, it seems to me that the effect will be highly beneficial. Southern farmers will receive numerous direct benefits from the establishment of more manufacturing enterprises, and they will receive many other benefits of an indirect, but no less real, nature. Agriculture, in brief, will profit greatly if the current movement of industry toward the South continues in the manner anticipated.

* * *

Gain in Population

High on the list of direct benefits must be placed the gain in population—an employed population—that will come with more widespread industrialization. This will mean, first of all, that a closer and more immediate market will be provided for farm products. It will mean more consumers in the South for goods, grown on southern farms. This closer market will mean that the South—without, let me emphasize, any approach to self-sufficiency, or any desire to approach that highly unrealistic state—need not be so completely dependent on conditions elsewhere for the well-being of its farmer.

Along with this point, it is in order to mention the fact that new industries will make profitable a larger production of agricultural specialties: vegetables, fruits, berries, grapes and so on. The establishment over the South of canning plants to process such products would mean a great deal to agriculture. The South has numerous natural advantages in the production of these agricultural specialties, and if it were profitable to do so, southern farmers could produce a much larger supply of them than they now produce. And it is certainly reasonable to think that a number of well equipped canning plants in the region would make this increased production profitable. This is, let me say, more than a theory, for a sufficient number of canneries is already operating in states of the South to demonstrate the great value of such enterprises.

Here is a very direct and tangible way in which Southern agriculture profits as a result of industralization. Incidentally, canning plants would be excellent industries for some of the hundreds of small towns scattered through the South. In such towns the canneries are close to the farms from which their raw materials are obtained, and their location in the towns helps to avert the dangers attending too much concentration of industry in the large cities.

* * *

Widen Home Market

Quantity production, coupled with an ever-widening market, has made America's industry undoubtedly the greatest in the world. It seems to me that the same principle will work out in agriculture. Indeed, it has already worked out in the South in **the growing of cotton. The South** has the facilities, both of land and of men, for raising other agricultural products on as large a scale as has already been reached in the production of cotton. And while the matter of a market for much of the South's cotton must depend on the gyrations of world trade, the bringing of more industries to the South offer an excellent method of widening the home market for other farm products. Industrialism of the South serves the double purpose of bringing more people—more consumers—to the region itself, and of creating new means of placing Southern farm products in the homes of millions of families all over the country. That is why agriculture in the South will grow, rather than diminish in importance with the continuation and acceleration of the present industrial trend.

At the same time that the farmer discovers a larger and more constant market for the agricultural specialties, he will find that the bringing of new industries to the South results in his securing the advantages of lower prices on many of the things he must buy. This is not paradoxical. It is nothing more than plain common sense to assume that a plow, for instance, manufactured in the South, can be sold to a Southern farmer at a lower price than one manufactured in the North or East. Transportation is one factor that enters into this, but it is not by any means the only one. There are such other considerations as the relative costs of living in the North or East and the South, the difference in taxes and initial investments of the industries, and the difference in maintenance expeses. The plow is, of course, used only as an example; the same principle applies to many other articles and products used by Southern farmers.

* * *

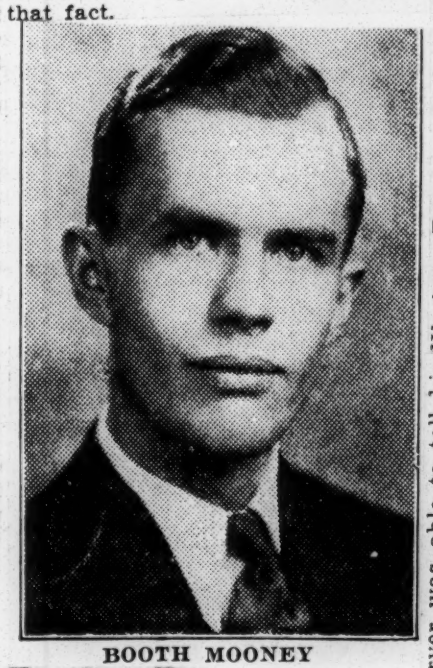
Supplement Incomes

Consideration must be accorded, also, to the probability that some farmers will obtain part-time employment in various kinds of factories at certain seasons of the year. No one wants to turn the southern farmer into a full-time industrial worker, but there is no denying that tenant farmers in particular, and "hired hands" who have farm employment during only a part of the year would welcome the opportunity to supplement their incomes by such work. Here, again, enter the benefits accruing to al lthe South from a continuously employed class of workers. That would mean, as I have indicated, a more constant and reliable market for many of the products of the southern farmer than he now enjoys.

All these gains that logically may be expected to come to agriculture as a result of continued industrialization are bound together. Each one affects the other. And when all of them are considered, it is easy to understand how great is the stake of agriculture in the more compelte industrialization of the South.

As to the possibility that any great number of southern farmers will give up farming to work in factories—well, farming is generally agreed to be about as much a state of mind as a state of being, and it may be said with confidence that thousands upon thousands of southern farmers, an overwhelming majority of them, have no desire to make their livings in any other way than by farming. But that occupation can be made more profitable by the establishment in the region of soundly based industries, and the farmers, we may be sure, will have no objection to that.

In short, no conflicts of interests exist in the South between agriculture and industry. And there ought to be a widespread recognition of that fact.



BOOTH MOONEY

Sees Destiny In Test Tubes

South Must Look to Chemistry to Prosper

SAYS T. H. ALEXANDER

FOR MANY years I have been writing on how the chemurgic chemist can bring us into our promised land in the south. When the day finally dawns that our southern farm products can be turned into factory products then in truth will the south become the richest land in the world.

T. H. Alexander

Occasionally, someone asks me: "How can the work of chemurgic chemists in the south be coordinated and correlated so that industry may obtain the use and benefit of his efforts?"

I do not know the answer to that, except that many worthwhile dis-

Dr. Carver was able to tell him Works Progress Administration there is a definite use for telling of the success of the starch feelings. In a short time this manufacturing plant at Laurel, will receive an expert report Miss., which was started as a FERA Dr. Carver advising the man- work project three years ago. at just how to use these peel- Now one of the hard roads che- Whatever he makes out of murgic chemistry has to travel is elings will be a by-product; the highway of hard facts. Unless be wealth created where the synthetic process can compete was no useful wealth before. with some older commercial proc- appens that upon my arrival ess, it is no good. fter the visit to Tuskegee, I Unless Dr. Herty can prod a press release from the

Mama. Ev- Dr. Carver himself throw- that there s South somewhere in the world of tons of sweet these peelings ay season he found potatoes in the There was no ay hundreds of tons of sweet potato peelings. Was there not some plant will re- from Dr. Ca agement just Found Use for Peelings

He did not know where, but he the peelings it will be there was no It happens starch, glue and home after t found a pr trip to Tuskegee to find out.

I spent the day last Sunday at Tuskegee Institute, which is the home of one of the greatest of all the creative chemists—Dr. George W. Carver, a negro. While I was there it happened that a man came who wanted to find the answer to perplexing question. This man op erated a sweet potato (yam) cannery

news print paper from southern pine cheaper than the Canadians can produce paper from Canadian spruce, he has done nothing worth while. For the chemurgic process must not only compete but undersell.

Starch-Making Cost Cut

The Laurel plant has been in operation for three years. Its first two years may have been a success so far as giving work is concerned, but it didn't produce starch from sweet potatoes at a price to permit the product to compete on the market. The first year the cost was 13 cents per pound, the third year the cost was 10 cents, but in 1936 the cost went down to three cents. The management thinks it could cut the cost further, if the plant were larger and the season longer.

The process of turning sweet potatoes into starch is simple. The growers dump the potatoes from their wagons into bins. The potatoes are ground in an ordinary hammer mill. The pulp is mixed with a saturated solution of lime water. The process is thus described by Dr. Paul W. Chapman, dean of the College of Agriculture of the University of Georgia, who recently visited the plant. After mixing with lime water, the mass flows onto shakers and the starch, which is literally "shaken" out, is carried to a sedimentation bed, bleached and later dried. Packed into bags holding 130 pounds, it is sold to textile mills and laundries. Dr. Chapman found the starch of good quality.

Many Problems Ahead

Now he would be a foolhardy man who would say immediately that this Mississippi plant is a success. The chemurgic chemist does not win so easily. This problem has many angles, for example, what will its fate be if the protective tariff should be taken off of starch? We southerners who have found such problems thrust on us aren't going on following the political faith of our fathers when we find our agricultural products need protection. An even more acute problem will arise if it is found that starch can be made more economically from corn than from sweet potatoes. Such a discovery would, unless checked by artificial means such as those used by the sugar beet growers of the west, automatically move the starch industry to the corn belt, because the corn belt can grow corn cheaper than the south can.

There are yet many unsolved problems in the process itself. For example, how can sweet potatoes be stored so that the starch content will not deteriorate?

The best the chemurgic chemist can say about such experiments is that they are hopeful. I have grave doubts about the million dollar appropriation which Senator Bilbo of Mississippi is asking to be spent in experimentation in some southern spot where cotton is the main crop. I mean precisely that unless the processes to be discovered permit the product to be sold in competition with other similar products, then the experiment can not be successful, unless the product to be made cannot be produced in this country, as in the case of German dyes. Government accounting doesn't always add up the column and get the same result as private industry. On the other hand, the appropriation might produce just one thing which would make it worth while.

Chattanooga, Tenn., Daily Times
May 14, 1937

MACHINE HELD LAST RESOURCE OF KING COTTON

Fisk Sociologist Declares U.S. Must Change Method to Meet Competition.

TENANCY EVIL ASSAILED

System Based on Staple Is Called Source of Waste in Life and Land.

The only way in which the United States can compete with other countries of the world in the production of cotton is by using machinery, such as the cotton picker, Dr. Charles Spurgeon Johnson, director of the department of social sciences in Fisk university, at Nashville, declared in an address on "Cotton Tenancy" last night at Howard High school.

The speaker, who is author of several volumes on cotton tenancy and its breakdown in the south, said the United States seems to be the only country in the world that has not made drastic changes in its agricultural system.

"Their problems as they first met them were almost identical with those that face this country today," he said.

Pointing out that when the price of cotton fell to 6 cents a pound it became necessary for the federal government to pay the cotton farmer the difference between the market price and a fair price, Dr. Johnson said cotton cannot be raised in the south for 6 cents a pound.

Machinery Practicability Limited.

The cost of producing cotton cannot be kept as low as 6 cents a pound anywhere in the United States except by the use of machinery, to which the southwest is adapted, but the southeast is not, the sociologist said. The cotton-producing southeast also confronts the fact that Texas, Oklahoma and part of California could produce all the cotton which the United States requires for domestic use and export, he said.

Posing another problem, Dr. Johnson said that the mechanical cotton picker, "which can do the work of at least 100 men and is not an expensive piece of machinery," will, if widely used, throw between 1,000,000 and 5,000,000 persons out of work which now yields them only the most meager livelihood.

Dr. Johnson described as "vicious" the credit system available for southern cotton production, and said the diet which cotton tenancy has made the standard in the south—"the three M's: Meat, meal and molasses"—has made this "a pellagra-ridden region."

"Pellagra has been called with a great deal of truth 'hidden hunger,'" he commented.

Of the cotton production credit system in the south, Dr. Johnson said charges have been found to range between 25 and 35 per cent. and "frequently go as high as 50 per cent."

"Credit rates for cotton are the highest among all types of production and no one in the area seems to get anything from it," he said. "It is little wonder that such large parts of the population remain muffled in a sort of apathy."

Tenancy Biracial Problem.

The problem of cotton tenancy in the south has long been overlooked for several reasons, one of which was that it was considered solely a Negro problem, but of the 1,800,000 tenant families in the south, 1,091,000 are white and about 700,000 are Negro, Dr. Johnson said. Another reason contributing to the long disregard of the problem, he continued, was that "tenancy has been regarded as the rough road to ownership, through which all owners go, more or less."

"Our greatest asset, cotton, becomes one of our greatest humiliations," he said. "Its workers are the lowest paid and the worst exploited in the nation. The system has made the south almost a colonial dependency of other parts of the country. The continued one-crop system has contributed to soil erosion and depletion more complete in the south than in any other region of the United States; two-thirds of the eroded and wasted land of the United States is in the south. It has led to a very precarious credit system. It has produced farm incomes which are about one-third of those in other sections of the country."

Dr. Johnson, who has written several books on cotton tenancy and its breakdown in the south, will complete a series of ten lectures here, with an appearance in Chattanooga High school at 9:30 o'clock this morning, when he will speak on "Health and Housing." In his addresses here he has spoken on race relations, youth delinquency, vocational guidance and opportunities, housing for low-income groups and allied social topics.

Agriculture-1937
Condition of.

General

Dirt Farmer Can't Fathom Philosophy of Increasing Crops While Cutting Them

Commercial Appeal 4-18-37

Sees Anomaly in Governmental Procedure in Distributing Free Fertilizer While Taking Land Out of Production

Memphis, Tenn.

By T. H. Alexander

I MUST respectfully insist that the general public consider me and my farming operations in a more serious vein. I am convinced that I am one of the very best farmers in the south, yet when any one speaks of my being a farmer he does so in an undignified spirit of levity and cracks jokes about it. I'd have you know that I am a real farmer and my farm lost just as much money during the recent depression as any farm in the South, of equal size. I qualify in other respects — I owe just as much money as other farmers. I have a mortgage which is as large as any possessed by any other southern farm. In other words, my farm has all the standard equipment for farming, mainly a lantern, a pair of overalls, an alarm clock and a mortgage. And lately, while sitting as a member of the jury in Williamson County, Tennessee, I have been sitting around the courthouse and cussing high taxes and the high cost of farm machinery, and if that doesn't make me a farmer then I'll never be a farmer.

T. H. Alexander

That doesn't mean, however, that I understand all about farming. On the practical side, I do, but it is the operations of the Pennsylvania Avenue farmers which I do not understand. I do not understand either their theories or the execution of their theories by the courthouse farmers in every county seat town.

I never have understood, for example, why the government has long decried over-production and yet set its entire machinery towards greater production. Until the AAA program was formulated, the U. S. Department of Agriculture's whole aim was to grow larger and better crops. And now, even with the brakes slapped on production, a great many units of government are yet intent on producing more.

For example, the Tennessee Valley Authority is giving away fertilizer to farmers who have signed up to virtually restrict their production. Fertilizer has but one purpose; that is, to make bigger crops. Hence with one hand Uncle Sam is trying to limit production and with the other he is trying to increase production. I can't understand this, and if any of the courthouse farmers—county agents and the like — want to explain it to me let them do so in words of one syllable and with a diagram.

And I don't understand how we can expect to sell our surplus farm products to foreign countries and yet never accept in return one pound of manufactured articles from these same foreign countries. In other words, I don't see how we can sell to them without buying from them. And when we buy from them we are certain to buy many articles which are also manufactured in the United States and thus we would do the American manufacturer a bad turn.

The nearest answer we have to that question is furnished by Secretary of State Cordell Hull and his reciprocal tariff policy, but just remember, if you please, the uproar that caused when first instituted. The cattle raisers said they were ruined and so did all the other interests affected. Yet he was just putting into effect the common sense theory that you can't expect to sell any country a lot of goods unless you also expect to buy a lot of goods from them.

Another thing I can't understand is how resettlement will work. I hold the pessimistic view that a very large percentage of tenant farmers have been so oppressed and beaten down by their environment that any possibility of salvaging them is very slight. This applies, I think, to white as well as negro tenant farmers. Once I went to the top of the Cumberland Mountains near Crossville and viewed the handsome homes which have been built for resettlement. They cost, I was told, about $4,000 each. I remember an experience I had in a personal resettlement project back during the depression. I got hold of a family and put them on my land. I made it possible that they should have sufficient money and work and a place to live. And the net result, outside of a large loss which I sustained, was that after they had departed I found that my tenant house and the adjoining barns and buildings had been cut up for wood. I suppose the government is speaking of a higher class of tenants than I know anything about, but those with whom I am familiar would cut up those $4,000 houses for wood, rather than walk to the woodlot for wood, if the woodlot were as much as 300 or 400 feet distant. And the bathtubs will make an excellent place for storing potatoes.

Now please understand, I am not criticizing Henry Wallace. I think Henry Wallace is the best secretary of agriculture we have ever had. I think he is an original thinker, a profound thinker. I warm to him and I shouldn't mind at all supporting him for president in 1940, but I think the fault is that pointed out by an old Scotsman whom I picked up in my car one day on the top of the Great Smoky Mountains when the TVA was first started. We fell to discussing the brain trust in Washington and this old Highlander said: "The brain trust is all right. It is a forward step to have a president who will have a brain trust to dream great dreams for him for the betterment of the people, but it is a mistake to put these same brain trusters in charge of the execution of their own plans. For that he needs hard-bitten, hard-driving practical men."

I know a negro tenant who made $2,300 in cash on his tobacco crop. Yet in just 30 days he borrowed $2 from his landlord to buy groceries and his landlord had to furnish him all winter and summer until the next crop. I think perhaps there are some heroes among the landlords and that perhaps all of them are not deep-dyed villains. I wish sometime somebody would write a piece about landlords in the South and try to find some good in these monsters of iniquity. There were times during the depression when I forked over my last dime to my tenants. And sometimes I found they spent the money for gasoline instead of groceries. Of course, we didn't go hungry in "the big house" (which might be roofed with mortgages and not a drop of rain would come in) but our activities were considerably curtailed. There are doubtless many bad landlords in the South and they give all landlords a bad name, just as a few Simon Legrees brought the end of slavery, but I have known but few instances of outright swindling of tenants. And many a time during the depression I would have swapped all the worry about debts and heart-breaking crop prices for the free and irresponsible life of my negro tenants. And it is an easy life; laborers in any city work ten times as hard as farm laborers. In many years the labor on Middle Tennessee farms has earned as much as $3 or $4 per day, when their wages have been supplemented by a share in the crops. And I mean $3 or $4 per day for every week day of the year. And then sometimes when there are crop failures their earnings drop to mere subsistence levels, but consider the tremendous losses of the landlord in years of crop failures.

And so, I say, I do not understand many of the theories of the Pennslyvania Avenue farmers nor the county courthouse farmers, and I think perhaps the Southern landlord is not such a villain as he is painted. Somebody ought to write a book about it, but it ought to be written by a man who has on his brow the sweat from plowing new ground or following a one horse cotton planter. No academicians need apply.

Mother South

Gradually informed observers in the south ern states are focusing attention on the problem of keeping their best contemporary minds at home.

Telegraph 4/28/37 Macon, Ga.

Dr. W. W. Alexander, national resettlement administrator, remarked in Montgomery, Ala. several days ago that the South "is the real breeding ground of the nation and yet we are poorer and least able to educate these children."

He estimated that more than half the nation's farm children are born in the Southeast, and stressed the need for increasing living standards better to equip children of the South.

Wilson Gee of the University of Virginia has made an interesting study of depletion of talent from the South with the conclusion that "the South is a heavy contributor of its best leadership to other parts of the nation, perhaps to its own serious detriment."

Mr. Gee recognizes properly that this condition cannot be corrected overnight, with a broadcast plea for all the South's ablest men and women to stay at home. Many of them are going where they find greatest opportunities.

Only through healthy development of the South's national and social resources can this territory be made an attractive field for young men and women "on the way up". Thus the whole future of the South is bound up in itself. This future, however, is far from hopeless. As the South pursues its natural economic and social development—and it is doing so now perhaps faster than at any time since the War Between the States—it will become more and more a land of opportunity for leadership. Its progress will become progressively self-accelerating.

Farm Tenancy in America

Telegraph 4-28-37 Macon, Ga.

Secretary Henry A. Wallace of the United States Department of Agriculture recently went on record as opposed to the present system of farm tenancy in America. He gave an important analysis of the system and its evils. He spoke slightingly of its benefits, but, in approaching a commendation of the resettlement scheme of the federal government, he admitted that properly supervised farming can bring results. It has brought results in the resettlement projects, especially if the resettlement managers knew more about farming than the "busted" rehab. He put his finger on the main trouble when he said the broken down farmer was taught the importance of raising and having something to eat before he gave thought to the cash crops. The average money-hungry farmer is not going to take up time with raising something to eat.

So far, not a rehabilitation or resettlement project of the federal government has made a success unless it reversed this order. If food was provided before cash crops were considered the loans made by the government were promptly paid back and in Georgia the borrower was ready to dismiss his financial helpers before the end of the first year. He could make his own way.

And this has not been confined to government experiments. Private landlords have found that by a little supervision they could help their tenants to make money. Go to most tenant homes in Georgia today, and you will find under the wagon shed or under the oak tree in the yard an automobile costing three times as much as the residence. One farmer in South Georgia boasted a few years ago that he did not have a tenant who owned a car costing less than two thousand dollars; and he was cultivating under the tenant system several thousand acres. If

those tenants had preferred land to automobiles, they could have been land owners in a short time. But no man ever made a fortune by spending his income each year for a new automobile.

Some people won't work unless they are "broke". Let them have money in their pockets, and they will frolic. They will go hunting, and have all sorts of "fun" until the money is gone. Then, they will start out again and try to make a "stake" by working hard. They have always done that way, and they always will.

The idea that all tenants can be converted into landowners is like saying all employes can be changed into employers.

So far as the tenant system in Georgia is concerned, it has been the most liberal system ever devised for helping the worthy to get a start. The interest rates for loans have been as inordinate as those in any other part of the country, and they have built up a small town aristocracy at the expense of the rural communities; but the person who sought to live at home instead of out of the town store, where western corn and meat are sold, had the best chance in the world for getting ahead. No town group ever had such a chance.

Chattanooga, Tenn. News
May 14, 1937

Farm Tenancy Problem Seen As Humiliation

The farm tenancy problem in the South is this country's "greatest humiliation," Dr. Charles S. Johnson, Fisk University professor and a member of President Roosevelt's Farm Tenancy Committee, told an audience Thursday night at Howard High School.

What began as an attempt to shift from slave labor to pay labor gave birth to what is "the most formidable agrarian problem facing us today," the speaker said.

It has caused the greatest soil depletion, lowest standards of living and incomes and virtually made this section of the country a "colonial possession" of the captains of finance of the North and of foreign countries, Dr. Johnson declared.

HITS INDIVIDUALISM

The speaker named "rugged individualism" as one of the chief causes of the increase in cotton farm tenancy year after year.

In 1880 only 30 per cent of the farmers were farm tenants. In 1920, there were 49 per cent and in 1930 the number grew to 55 per cent and 40,000 are added to the roll of tenancy each year, due to farmers "slipping back" and losing their lands through foreclosure, mounting costs of production and competition from fifty other countries than can and do produce cotton more cheaply, and as good, and in some cases, better grades than we can produce here, Dr. Johnson said.

"Twenty per cent of the State of Alabama is owned in Connecticut, and thousands of acres of cotton lands are owned by British concerns, who use landlords to oversee their properties, gained through foreclosures, and purchased at bargains," he said. The circumstances which caused this have forced the small farmer into tenancy.

NOT NEGRO PROBLEM

"Cotton tenancy started as a Negro problem, because they were the producers in the United States during slavery, until the impoverished white South was forced in large numbers away from ownership. But now there are 1,091,000 white families, and 700,000 colored families in the throes of tenancy," he said.

Musical numbers were given by the Forum Glee Club and L. David Collins, former member of the Fisk quartet. The Rev. J. B. Barber, pastor of the Leonard Street Presbyterian Church, presided.

HOUSE TENANCY BILL IS RAPPED BY POLICY HEAD

Substitution Of Senate's Plan Advocated By Southern Leader

By Daniel M. Kidney
Post Staff Correspondent

WASHINGTON, June 18.—Substitution of the Senate farm tenancy bill for the one now pending in the House, as a step toward curbing land speculation, was advocated here today by Francis Pickens Miller, president of the Southern Policy Assn.

Since its organization in 1935 the association has been studying ways and means to employ Government aid in solving tenant and sharecropper problems in the South.

Mr. Miller condemned the House bill as merely perpetuating the credit and mortgage system under which farm tenancy has become an acute problem.

Prevents Speculation

Under the Senate bill the Federal Government would not permit the land to be sold until final payment was made. This would prevent a farmer from selling the mortgaged farm at the first chance he got to make a profit from the rise in land prices, Mr. Miller pointed out.

The House bill provides for establishment of a Government corporation with $50,000,000 capital to make low-interest loans enabling tenants to become landholders. It would make the loans, however, under the regular mortgage system and the purchaser could sell at any time.

It would be better to pass no bill this session than to approve such a measure, Mr. Miller said.

The bill was introduced by Representative Jones (D., Tex.), chairman of the House agriculture committee, but was revised to its present form after weeks of committee wrangling.

Safeguard Is Urged

Senator Bankhead (D., Ala.) presented the $50,000,000 measure in the Senate, but after a White House conference rewrote it so that the one now pending provides for only $10,000,000 the first year. This would increase to $25,000,000 the second year and $50,000,000 each year thereafter.

Since the bill, as reported by the Senate agriculture committee, has the President's approval it likely will be substituted for the House measure if any is passed this session.

The safeguard for which Mr. Miller contends is contained in this section:

"No purchasers of property from the corporation shall, so long as the purchase price is not paid in full, without the written consent of the corporation, sell, lease, mortgage, transfer, assign or convey any such property included in a contract of sale by the corporation or in a mortgage to the corporation."

If this provision were violated the corporation could declare all payments due at once and repossess the land.

U. S. Chamber of Commerce Approaches Farm Tenancy Problems In Factual Way

R. B. Snowden, Jr., of Memphis Is Member of Committee Which Favors In Principle Efforts To Solve Pressing Problem

BY W. C. TEAGUE

Factual, statistical, non-controversial approaches to the problem of farm tenancy in the United States have been so rare that the Chamber of Commerce of the United States makes news by issuing one.

The trick is done in a pamphlet entitled "Farm Tenancy in the United States," now off the presses and being sent to members of the chamber. It is the work of a special committee composed of men who have a cross-sectional view of farm products and the agricultural industry from the furrow to the consumer.

The Mid-South is represented on the committee by R. B. Snowden, Jr., chairman of the agricultural committee of the Memphis Chamber of Commerce, and a practicing farmer himself.

Wide Latitude Favored

The committee first approves in principal efforts for the improvement of the economic and social status of farm tenants and for checking the growth of farm tenancy. It suggests the utmost care in selecting applicants for aid, the greatest possible allowance for the exercise of individual initiative, advises local, state and federal participation in the financing, and suggests latitude and flexibility in any plan so that local conditions can be accommodated to the general scheme.

Then, after pointing out that tenancy is a very ancient problem and of such scope and nature that it is a national headache in the United States, the committee proceeds to the presentation of data as accurate and comprehensive as available.

The first section presents figures on the number of farm tenants, their distribution, changes in their number, and the racial aspects of the proposition. There follow statistics on the area of land operated under lease, the value of farms operated by tenants, and conditions that affect the amount of tenancy.

The section devoted to the facts that condition tenancy is particularly significant for the thoughtful student of the problem because of its dry, crisp analysis of the part played by farm values, changes in land values, prices of farm products, opportunities for employment types and methods of farming, and the effect of the stage of development in any given farm region.

The forms of tenancy, objection to tenancy and the economic sig-

The booklet is amply documented and carries statistical tables including the best available figures from 1880 to 1935, or from such late as data are at hand down to 1935.

The report is especially timely in view of the movement in Congress to have the federal government take steps to reduce farm tenancy and because it proposes a business-like method of attack on what is conceded to be a problem of direct concern to the nation as a whole.

Agriculture - 1937
Condition of.

General.

COTTON: *Picking Machine Changes Picture*

It's A Dream Of Many Years—But What Of The Picker?

10-19-37

By Lev Flournoy
Scripps-Howard Staff Writer

Sunday night, the sixth of September, there was about the Greenville Hotel at Greenville, Miss., something of that hushed expectancy that must have pervaded the atmosphere when the Wright Bros. held the first public test of their flying machine at Kill Devil Hill in the Carolinas.

Newspaper correspondents from far places were there, and newsreel men, and bankers, and planters and county agents and Government men, all flocked into Greenville for the great events of the next day.

This time another pair of brothers—the Rust brothers of Memphis, both former Texas farm hands—held the center of the stage. Mack Rust and the Rust Bros.' cotton picker, No. 751 on the list of cotton pickers patented since the Civil War, were at the nearby Stoneville Experiment Station. The following day there was to be the test of tests for this machine, the first model of which was built five years ago.

* * *

LEFT WITH FEELING 'THIS IS THE ONE'

That next day the picker worked—not perfectly—but with such smoothness and precision that, while experts differed on the degree of its effectiveness, many went away with the feeling that "this is the one."

The picker, when it is perfected, probably will have the most revolutionary effect on cotton culture that has been wrought since the gin was invented 150 years ago.

To fabulous cotton it brings the assurance that cotton can continue the way the world wants cotton—cheap—and that on present prices there can be a margin of profit to the producer.

To the awakened South it brings a hope that the acreage devoted to cotton is to have more free time for other crops, if Winter crops that are suitable can be found.

To those who are trying to help the 10,000,000 it brings a whole new array of social problems, for the picker, which looks like a five-foot coal furnace on tractor wheels, is a juggernaut, which, for a small cost can lop more than a hundred million dollars a year from the wages of the one class in the nation which most of all needs wages.

To the isolated, 40-acre cotton farm, a perfected picker spells ruin, for no farmer, picking 150 pounds per day by hand, when a perfected picker might sweep into a suction bag four times that much in an hour, can compete with the large tracts.

At Stoneville the Negroes stood respectfully on the outskirts of the crowd that watched. The white sharecroppers were up with the Government representatives and the newsreel men.

'SOME HAD TO PICK THE COTTON--'

Little man, what now?

Someone had to pick the cotton, the song says, adding that "that's why darkies were born." But many cotton experts believe the Rust mechanical picker (shown below), picking as much cotton in an hour as a Negro picks all day, may drive most of the old finger-labor from the fields and revolutionize cotton growing. If it does, what becomes of the Negro whose very life depends upon his small patch and the money he makes during picking season?

* * *

DOUBTFUL IF THEY READ HANDWRITING ON THE WALL

On white and black faces, shaded with their broad hats, there was that puzzled, intent look that was on the faces of the sidewalk throngs of the late nineties when they used to contemplate the first red-wheeled, lever-driven automobiles.

You could have stepped on their feet and they would scarcely have uttered a word.

Back of W. E. Ayres, assistant director of the station, stood two Negroes. Oblivious of all other things, they watched the moving picker. With rustling spindles it swished through the last stalks of cotton on a long row, nosed into the little dirt road like an elephant about to kneel, and swung back to take the adjoining row.

One negro turned to the other. "Sho' does," he said, and sighed. "Sho' does," his companion replied. They fixed their eyes upon the picker as it started back. Nothing else was said.

To anyone who doesn't know his cotton patch Negroes, the intent, wondering, calf-like eyes, tirelessly following the furnace on wheels, might have meant that these motley croppers were contemplating the sweeping changes the thing might mean.

To the man who knows his Negroes—and his whites, too—among the croppers—their intent gaze meant nothing of the sort, for thinking beyond the range of his vision and the immediate necessities of the hour is not a weakness of the sharecropper.

That there are exceptions, of course, is widely known. Two Presidents of the United States—Jackson and Johnson—came from the white strain that started down when the "naygurs" took up the burden in Virginia. Many Negroes have had within them the materials of victory and have come upward against all obstacles—in spite of everything and because of nothing.

* * *

ONE NEGRO 'CROPPER NOW A BIG PLANTER

John Claybrook, a Negro, was a timber cutter and a sharecropper 30 years ago. Today he owns a plantation near that of J. O. E. Beck, Arkansas' largest planter, who as a boy was a sharecropper himself. Mr. Beck says he would rather have John Claybrook's note for $25,000 than to have the note of most white men he knows, and adds that but for the complications that might follow on the death of either, he would just as soon have John Claybrook's word.

The late R. E. Lee Wilson, once Arkansas' foremost planter, was an early-day sharecropper. He came from Mississippi across the river to the new Arkansas lands as a youth. He had 50 cents and a mule when he arrived.

That there is in the South a large class of poor whites, a dependent race, shiftless, wandering, ignorant, underprivileged, debt-ridden, largely disenfranchised there is little doubt. That the same applies to the Negro cropper and day laborer likewise is true, except that the better land. Life there is easier for everybody connected with cotton. The eastern edge has been "mined" rather than cultivated. Much of the soil is worn out.

The invitation to idleness that exists in the growing of a crop which demands daily attention during seven or eight months of the year, but which can get along amazingly well with little attention, is more than most sharecroppers can resist. The very nature of the credit system and the year-long security of the cabin breeds indeIncreasing section of opinion is no longer dismatter of the low estotton's pauperized army bal shrug of the shoulthe mass of evidence general condemnation far from right.

But an incr Southern opinion missing the mate of cotton's with a verbal sh ders, despite the prove the genera them is not far The evidence is a lessness in the east belt is more marke the western half, b the rule rather than the exception.

A similar statement was made in 1732 to justify the shanghaiing of slaves from the Gambia.

* * *

Negro has and represents some problems peculiar to himself.

Likewise, it is true that a large section of Southern opinion truthfully says "they're a no-good lot and you can't do anything about them."

The western half of the credit system and the year-long security of the cabin breeds indefor instance. is newer land and

SOUTH AWAKENS TO ITS PROBLEM

Agriculture - 1937
Condition of

Genera

COTTON: *Picking Machine Changes Picture*

It's A Dream Of Many Years—But What Of The Picker?

'SOME HAD TO PICK THE COTTON--'

Little man, what now?
Someone had to pick the cotton, the song says, adding that "that's why darkies were born." But many cotton experts believe the Rust mechanical picker (shown below), picking as much cotton in an hour as a Negro picks all day, may drive most of the old finger-labor from the fields and revolutionize cotton growing. If it does, what becomes of the Negro whose very life depends upon his small patch and the money he makes during picking season?

By Lev Flurnoy
Scripps-Howard Staff Writer

Sunday night, the sixth of September, there was about the Greenville Hotel at Greenville, Miss., something of that hushed expectancy that must have pervaded the atmosphere when the Wright Bros. held the first public test of their flying machine at Kill Devil Hill in the Carolinas.

Newspaper correspondents from far places were there, and newsreel men, and cameramen, and planters and county agents and Government men, all flocked into Greenville for the great events of the next day.

This time another pair of brothers—the Rust brothers of Memphis, both former Texas farm hands—held the center of the stage. Mack Rust and the Rust Bros.' cotton picker, No. 751 on the list of cotton pickers patented since the Civil War, were at the nearby Stoneville Experiment Station. The following day there was to be the test of tests for this machine, the first model of which was built five years ago.

* * *

LEFT WITH FEELING 'THIS IS THE ONE'

That next day the picker worked—not perfectly—but with such smoothness and precision that, while experts differed on the degree of its effectiveness, many went away with the feeling that "this is the one."

The picker, when it is perfected, probably will have the most revolutionary effect on cotton culture that has been wrought since the gin was invented 150 years ago.

To fabulous cotton it brings the assurance that cotton can continue the way the world wants cotton—cheap—and that on present prices there can be a margin of profit to the producer.

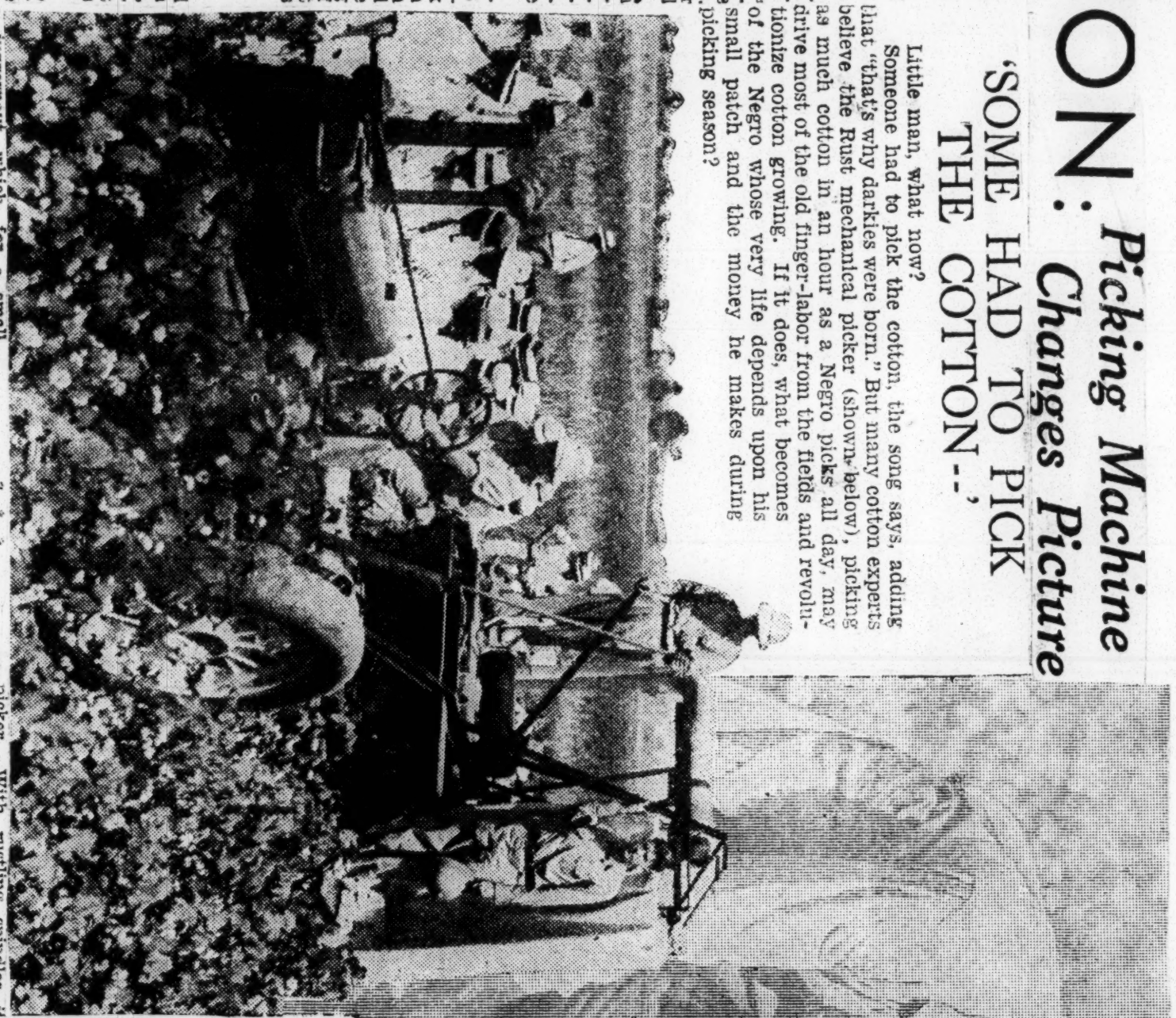
To the awakened South it brings a hope that the acreage devoted to cotton is to have more free time for other crops, if Winter crops that are suitable can be found.

To those who are trying to help the 10,000,000 it brings a whole new array of social problems, for the picker, which looks like a five-foot coal furnace on tractor wheels, is a juggernaut, which, for a small cost can lop more than a hundred million dollars a year from the wages of the one class in the nation which most of all needs wages.

To the isolated, 40-acre cotton farm, a perfected picker spells ruin, for no farmer, picking 150 pounds per day by hand, when a perfected picker might sweep into a suction bag four times that much in an hour, can compete with the large tracts.

At Stoneville the Negroes stood about to kneel, and swung back to the little dirt road like an elephant wishes through the last stalks of cotton on a long row, nosed into the next row, and started back.

With rustling spindles it picked through the last stalks of cotton on a long row, nosed into the next row, and started back.



HANDWRITING ON THE WALL DOUBTFUL IF THEY READ

On white and black faces, shaded by their broad hats, there was a puzzled, intent look that was almost wondering, calf-like eyes, tirelessly following the machine on wheels, follow on the death of either, he would just as soon have John Clay-brook's word.

The late R. E. Lee Wilson, once Arkansas' foremost planter, was an early-day sharecropper. He came from Mississippi across the river to the new Arkansas lands as a youth. He had 50 cents and a mule when he arrived.

That there is in the South a large class of poor whites, a dependent race, shiftless, wandering, ignorant, underprivileged, debt-ridden, largely disenfranchised there is little doubt. That the same applies to the Negro cropper and day laborer likewise is true, except that the Negro has and represents some problems peculiar to himself.

Likewise, it is true that a large section of Southern opinion truthfully says "they're a no-good lot and you can't do anything about them."

A similar statement was made in 1732 to justify the shanghaiing of slaves from the Gambia.

* * *

SOUTH AWAKENS TO ITS PROBLEM

But an increasing section of Southern opinion is no longer dismissing the matter of the low estate of cotton's pauperized army with a verbal shrug of the shoulders, despite the mass of evidence to prove the general condemnation of them is not far from right.

The evidence is abundant. Shiftlessness in the eastern edge of the belt is more marked than it is on the western half, but in both it is the rule rather than the exception.

The western half of cottonland, for instance, is newer land and better land. Life there is easier for everybody connected with cotton. The eastern edge has been "mined" rather than cultivated. Much of the soil is worn out.

The invitation to idleness that exists in the growing of a crop which demands daily attention during seven or eight months of the year, but which can get along amazingly well with little attention, is more than most sharecroppers can resist. The very nature of the credit system and the year-long security of the cabin breeds inde-

To the man who knows his Negroes—and his whites, too—among the croppers—their intent gaze meant nothing of the sort, for thinking beyond the range of his vision and the immediate necessities of the hour is not a weakness of the sharecropper.

That there are exceptions, of course, is widely known. Two Presidents of the United States—Jackson and Johnson—came from the white strain that "nayguns" took up the burden in Virginia. Many Negroes have had within them the materials of victory and have come upward against all obstacles—in spite of everything and because of nothing.

* * *

ONE NEGRO 'CROPPER NOW A BIG PLANTER

John Claybrook, a Negro, was a timber cutter and a sharecropper 30 years ago. Today he owns a plantation near that of J. O. E. Beck. Mr. Beck was a sharecropper himself. Mr. John Claybrook's note for $25,000 is to have the note of most white men he knows, and adds that but for the complications that might

pendence and extravagance. The nearness of the store invites a man, already inherently lethargic, to sit on the porch as much as he can, and to fish when he should be working.

The life-long ill-balanced diet breeds a physical laziness. The days without end, meager, changeless, drear and yet withal easy, stifle the spark of ambition if it ever flares.

* * *

'CROPPING COSTLY TO SOUTHERN BUSINESS

Ignorance and illiteracy limit the development of imagination. To many of them, Heaven is a place where more cotton can be raised with less work and sold at a higher price.

The porch the cropper sat on in the Summer days when he should have been making his coton or tending his garden, which too often turns into grass and weeds, frequently is cut to pieces for firewood which he could have poached from a bayou bank a half mile away. The cropper does not have to have initiative to get along, although his position, in theory at least, is that of a partner. The land isn't his, the cabin isn't his, the stock isn't his; he may be somewhere else next season.

And in many cases before him were father and grandfather who lived pretty much the same way that he is living.

This combination of circumstances makes for the shiftlessness which has identified itself with the cropper.

Ten millions, paupers and near-paupers, beside the meaningless lives they lead, undoubtedly have cost the South millions of dollars. The city dwellers of the South—the men who hope to create estates by operating stores, insurance companies, laundries, and all the other trades of a metropolis, have paid a heavy penalty because this tremendous population is not a market. The planters whose places they work have paid in reduced production and crops that have failed, and high production costs which have often left them bankrupt when prices slumped.

The banks have paid a heavy cost, and the forward-looking planters, of whom there is an ever-increasing number, have been penalized by the influence of this ancient and outmoded system.

To the guiding spirits of the South, President Roosevelt might particularly have addressed the quoted remarks with which he closed his September speech at Syracuse:

"The voice of great events is proclaiming to us: 'Reform if you would preserve.'"

NEXT: Many policies, many plans.

Cotton Growers in America Need Not Fear Competition From Fields of Manchoukuo

Higher Quality of United States Output Assures It of Export Market, But Cheaper Indian Staple Makes Some Inroads

(The following dispatch from Tokyo is of especial interest and importance in Memphis, in view of the fact that the Mid-South area of which Memphis is the hub grows approximately one-third of America's cotton crop. Slightly more than half of America's cotton is exported to foreign nations, Japan being a major purchaser. Thus, on the basis of a billion-dollar American crop, $330,000,000 of America's cotton would be grown in the Mid-South area and slightly over half of the Mid-South's production, or approximately $165,000,000 worth, would be exported.)

By United Press

TOKYO, July 17.—The American cotton-growing industry is in no danger from Japanese competition such as would arise from vast Japanese cotton plantations in Manchoukuo.

Experiments conducted by Japan with the hope of freeing its textile industry from foreign imports by producing cotton on a major scale in Manchoukuo have met with failure. Neither the soil nor the climate of Manchoukuo is suited for this crop and, moreover, every square inch of land in the Far East is needed to feed the hungry stomachs of Asia's millions.

Just as Americans tried to produce their own silk on silkworm plantations in California and failed, so have the Japanese tried to produce their own cotton in Manchuria and failed. Experience has demonstrated that each is an indigenous crop which one country must purchase from the other.

Unless some nation is willing to cede or lease to Japan a developed area that will produce 2,000,000 bales of American-type cotton yearly, Japan will continue buying indefinitely large amounts of United States cotton for the weaving of her better class textiles. Since no such territory exists outside the United States, Japan's status as a customer is likely to continue for decades. In the opinion of Japanese and foreign cotton experts here, Japan will continue to buy American cotton according to her needs and her means. Price will be an important but not necessarily a ruling factor.

No Land, No Money

This is the reply to reports circulated in America that Japan has under way great developments to make her textile industry independent of foreign producers. No such projects have been financed and no concrete plans have been formulated. Neither the land or the money is presently available.

Japan's better textiles are made with American cotton and the industry must have it. Japan buys the kind of cotton she needs, in the areas that produce them and at the best prices obtainable. She sells the finished goods where she can make the most profit. She is a smart merchant nation.

Japan's purchases of American cotton in 1936 totaled 1,564,111 bales, or an increase of 96,557 bales over 1935. In return, her busy factories sold America a vast quantity of manufacturer goods of all kinds, including cotton goods.

However, Japan's purchases from India totaled 2,198,762 bales in 1936, an increase of 525,059 bales. Back of the increased proportion of Japan's cotton purchases in India are reasons that have little relation to American exports.

Better Textiles Made

India's cotton is of short staple and is used for stuffing mattresses, quilts, making sail cloths and fishing nets, weaving the common kimonos. American cotton is needed for the finer textiles that are used for better cotton clothing and the cotton fabrics that are sold to the dressmakers abroad. Indian cotton will not produce this quality of cloth.

If American cotton had been available in abundance at the Indian price, mattresses, quilts and kimonos would have been made of this better cotton. To meet the higher cost and limited supply of American cotton, Japan manufacturers simply reduced the quantity of American cotton in the commoner articles. They made their quilts and mattresses almost exclusively of Indian cotton. Japanese stores offered for sale more bats of Indian cottton for families that make their own bedding and the Japanese floor cushions which are the equivalent of chairs in the western hemisphere.

With price increases all along the commodity line, the Japanese people had to retrench. The manufacturers had to offer them the kind of goods that they could afford to buy. India could sell cotton cheaply and abundantly; America could not.

1936 Trend Continues

In the first three months of 1937 the same general situation prevailed. From the United States Japan imported 508,378 bales, compared with 630,306 bales in the first quarter of 1936. She imported from India 883,625 bales in the first quarter of this year and 565,921 bales in the corresponding period of 1936. The Japanese market demanded cheaper goods so cheaper Indian cotton was used.

For a time, Brazil was the hope of Japanese cotton interests as they surveyed America's higher prices and reduced production, and concessions on potential cotton land were taken in that country. But the threat of serious Brazilian competition for the United States largely has faded out. Brazilian weather presents its problems, and the hordes of tropical insect pests found in South America make matters worse. This year, as recent dispatches have stated, the Brazilian cotton crop is largely a failure.

While Brazilian cotton is of a quality somewhat similar to that of the United States cotton, the production is so light that Japan imports comparatively little. Purchases from Egypt also are light, because Egyptian cotton is of the highest quality; hence, higher in price.

China Stands Alone

China is in a position by herself. She does not produce sufficient cotton for her own needs, and the Japanese mills in China. However, her own cotton—which is of longer staple than the Indian product—is protected by an import duty of 14 per cent. This keeps the price of Chinese cotton higher than that of Indian cotton.

Due to the rapid expansion of her textile industry, Japan naturally has experimented with cotton cultivation. Attempts to grow cotton on a practical scale in Formosa have met with failure. Korea produces some cotton, but it is used domestically, and the crop is meaningless so far as the Japanese textile industry is concerned.

Manchoukuo has been disappointing. The Manchoukuan government already has announced that the cold weather makes a short growing season, and for that reason cotton production is impractical. Cotton experiments there were not successful, and many Japanese experts believe the land can be put to better use.

Complete freedom of Japan's textile industry from American cotton would require a large single area. The effort would necessitate the employment of experts and overseers, the building up of a marketing system. All these expenses, together with the cost of labor, land rentals and insecticides would, in the opinion of Japanese cotton men, make the product too expensive even if the climate of Manchoukuo were suitable. The Japanese are capable farmers along their own lines, they say, but they are not cotton farmers.

Silk Experiment Failed

The United States, the Japanese point out, is the only major textile manufacturing nation that is also favored with a large production of cotton. Such conditions do not exist in England, where there is a tremendous textile industry but no cotton crop, or in India, where there is a large crop but a comparatively insignificant industry.

Japan's cotton problem is very similar to America's silk problem. Independence in raw silk supply would be highly desirable, and American experimented with silk culture about 10 years ago. The result was negligible.

Large tracts of land were planted to mulberry trees in California and by American investors, and a silk factory erected at Escondito., Silkworm eggs were imported from Japan. Cocoons were to be produced on a quantity basis. Some silk was actually produced, but the Americans soon learned that silk culture needed the expert touch that has become the habit with silk producers in Japan.

Agriculture - 1937

General

Condition of

COTTON: *A Ship Arrived In Virginia In 1619; And It Molded Entire History Of A Nation*

—From painting by Howard Pyle.

On Aug. 31, 1619, at the colony of Jamestown, Va., a distressed vessel exchanged "20 naygurs" for victuals, the first of a a vast supply of black labor from Africa upon whose backs was erected the South's cotton kingdom.

By Lev Flournoy
Scripps-Howard Staff Writer

How cotton, the South's fortune, has become also its fate, is told in this series of nine articles by Lev Flournoy, veteran Scripps-Howard writer and native of Arkansas. Against a background of the sharecropper system he throws into relief present-day problems of competition abroad and social change at home that today threaten the South's one-crop economy, on which, for the last century, the entire nation has depended.

First of a Series

Cotton—It built a civilization and destroyed it; it caused a war, enslaved a race and set it free; it plunged into economic peasantry two men for every one to whom it gave the illusion of liberty.

It has enriched thousands and impoverished millions.

It was cradled in the beginning of the nation and helped to make its history.

Today the social, political and economic order rests largely upon it.

Today epic drama is taking place because of it.

Today, while conscious forces seek to make history, the unconscious force of a simple, filmy white fiber makes it.

Mist came up from the creeks in the forest about the clearing; a thin mist from the James River, a rolling, heavy mist from the bay.

The sun broke thru the clouds and cleared it, and all that day there was great excitement and much conversation in Jamestown, in Virginia colony, and litttle work was done by the families in the 50 huts grouped about the triangular stockade.

That night, long past his bedtime, John Rolfe, but lately grieving the death of his incomparable Pocahontas, laid aside his jerkin, smoothed his doublet and wrote in his book:

"Came in today a Dutch man of warre that sold us 20 naygurs."

It was Aug. 31, 1619.

* * *

SLAVE SHIP, SHARECROPPER —JUST CAUSE AND EFFECT

Only July 11, 1934—a few days less than 315 years after John Rolfe made that simple and unforseeing entry—a pants presser and a filling station operator met at Sunnyside Schoolhouse, near Tyronza, Ark., and formed the Southern Tenant Farmers' Union.

The arrival of the Dutch slave ship—which had once been called by the holy name of Jesus—and the formation of the sharecropper union are cause and effect. They are inextricably woven together.

That day in 1619 is the day when the germ of sharecropping began, and that night in 1934 is the night that the nation began to awaken to see cotton and cropper, as one problem, in the light of monstrous reality.

In the three centuries is the story of the South and the nation, the story of 10,000,000 miserables and how they came to their low estate. In those three centuries was built America's annual billion-dollar cotton crop, and the more than a billion dollars of cotton that is now grown abroad; and the stage was set for all the world-shaking events that may come out of a new globe-encircling fight for one of nature's most necessary products and the dollars that can be made from it.

In those three centuries the long processions of America's fathers and sons were born, and worked and loved and fought and died. New nations rose and fell. The great came and vanished. Cotton sufficient to clothe and convenience a hundred worlds was passed through the spindles.

SLAVES ONCE 'NEEDED' IN THE COTTON FIELDS

The excitement of Jamestown's people that day did not revolve about the 20 naygurs. Except for the entry, "sold us 20 naygurs," there is no official record of them. Their arrival was but little the more important than all those other incidents of the day which the weary Rolfe dismissed with the words "unfit to be remembered."

Doubtless they were brought up from the hold in the manner of the slave ships, their thongs were loosened, they were cleansed in the river of their own foulness and set ashore to be thumped and punched and scrutinized.

What held the rapt attention of the colonists was not the "naygurs" but the strange craft that found its way into the James River with the tide. She was a barnacled and sea-worn brig, her amazing guns lashed to place with stout rope and strange chain fastened about stanchions. She flew the Dutch flag but the crew was English. She had the mainmast of a schooner and the foremast of a brigantine. She was in need of victuals and of water, and was clearly in distress.

The bargain thus was made. For food and fresh water, the Jesus yielded up 20 naygurs. Otherwise, according to John Smith's "Proceedings and Accidents of the Virginia Colony," it would have been necessary to throw them into the sea.

Thus their purchase which is spoken of as the acquiring of "a commodity most needed here," is also defended on naive grounds. The slaves were "compensation for an act of humanity."

The colonists who flocked down to the water's edge when the anchor rattled down the Jesus' side into the broad river did not know her history. The Jesus, by that name, was hunted. She had been the property of Sir John Hawkins, the man stealer, and her crime was not in selling slaves, but in stealing the slaves other ships had taken on for sale. She was the first "hijacker."

The deal made, the Jesus departed to be sunk by a Spaniard even as she herself had sunk many Spaniards.

Of the "naygurs" at Jamestown, nothing is known during the six months following their landing, but in the Spring of 1620 they planted a field with a brownish black seed which had been given to Capt. John Smith by the Indians in exchange for a bright shawl and the little boxes in which candies and communion books had come from England.

Cotton culture had begun. The dragon's teeth were in the ground.

* * *

THEY WERE FOREVER TOGETHER—SLAVES, COTTON

A vast stream of history began to flow from that simple entry John Rolfe made. American black slavery had begun. Great fortunes erected on the backs of slaves were beginning to form. Slaves became useful on indigo and rice plantations. When they began to cultivate cotton the world was soon to realize that two perfect affinities had met. Cotton always has been the crop for slaves. Slaves generally the labor for cotton.

Between the two great human factors in cotton culture in that early day—the baronial owner and the black slave, other white men found themselves crowded out. An economy had begun like an invisible rod-like germ in a healthy tissue to marshal them into a line that was to grow more and more apart from other men. The line made up the poor whites of colonial days, it formed the despised trash of the early 1800s, and it leads down straight through the centuries to the teeming present in cottonland and the meeting in Sunnyside Schoolhouse.

Today cotton, most dramatic of all inanimate products of the United States, moves slowly but surely to the greatest crisis of its long career.

For more than a century America's most valuable export, other nations with new self-containment policies, with new and strange philosophies and new-born jealousies have in the last four years cut seriously into the export trade of American cotton producers. American cotton's 10,000,000 dependents have reached the end of the economic rope and their lot in life has become a national responsibility. New machines, perhaps as revolutionary as the gin and power loom, are on the horizon to further pauperize the sharecropper army, and to complicate in an unpredictable way the world battle for sales.

LOSS OF EXPORT MARKET CUTS PRICE OF STAPLE

Cotton, the textile of a thousand uses, the economic "all" of a section larger than France, Germany, Italy and Spain, the product of one in every three of the nation's

farms—it occupies a fourth of the nation's land where live a fifth of the nation's population. It employs and directly maintains besides its army of underprivileged another 5,000,000; its empire—the Southern states—because cotton has a purchasing power that accounts for the prosperity of every other American state.

Exported, cotton has paid for most of the tin, rubber, silk, furs, sugar, coffee and tea which the United States has bought abroad. It has, to a great extent, made possible the American standard of living to which the 10,000,000 in its retinue, even in their imaginings, cannot hope to aspire.

Sixty per cent of America's cotton has always been, and much of it must continue to be, exported, and these other nations, now embarked on cotton raising, are slashing at this export business on the basis of price, and price is one of the things that degrades the 10,000,000.

So the sharecropper war is important not only because it involves the dreary lives of 10,000,000, but because it involves cotton, and cotton is important, not only because it has made peasants in a plenteous land, but because America's prosperity, indeed her national solvency, is dependent on cotton, and cotton's retinue.

NEXT: The rgowth of Sharecropping.

—From Portrait by S. F. B. Morse.

ELI WHITNEY...
a schoolteacher whose invention of the cotton gin in 1793 made cotton a major world crop and fixed the South's future for 150 years to come.

Roosevelt Farm Tenancy Message

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 16.—The text of President Roosevelt's message to Congress transmitting report from his special committee on farm tenancy was as follows

I transmit herewith for the information of the Congress the report of the special committee on farm tenancy.

The facts presented in this report reveal a grave problem of great magnitude and complexity.

The American dream of the family-size farm, owned by the family which operates it, has become more and more remote. The agricultural ladder, on which an energetic young man might ascend from hired man to tenant to independent owner, is no longer serving its purpose.

Half a century ago only one of every four farmers was a tenant. Today, two of every five are tenants, and on some of our best farm lands seven of every ten farmers are tenants.

All told, they operate land and buildings valued at $11,000,000,000.

For the past ten years, the number of new tenants every year has been about forty thousand. Many tenants change farms every two or three years, and apparently one out of three changes farms every year. The agricultural ladder, for these Americans, has become a treadmill.

At the same time, owners of family-size farms have been slipping down. Thousands of farmers commonly considered owners are as insecure as tenants. The farm owner operators equity in his property is, on the average, 42 per cent, and in some of our best farming sections is as little as one-fifth.

When fully half the total farm population of the United States no longer can feel secure, when millions of our people have lost their roots in the soil, action to provide security is imperative, and will be generally approved.

Asks That All Agencies Aid

A problem of such magnitude is not solved overnight, nor by any one limited approach, nor by the Federal Government alone. While aggravated by the depression, the tenancy problem is the accumulated result of generations of unthinking exploitation of our agricultural resources, both land and people.

We can no longer postpone action. We must begin at once with such resources of man power, money and experience as are available, and with such methods as will call forth the cooperative effort of local, State and Federal agencies of government, and of landlords quite as much as tenants.

In dealing with the problem of relief among rural people during the depression, we have already accumulated information and experience which will be of great value in the long-time program. It will be wise to start the permanent program on a scale commensurate with our resources and experience, with the purpose of later expanding the program to a scale commensurate with the magnitude of the problem as rapidly as our experience and resources will permit.

The special committee on farm tenancy emphasizes the necessity for action of at least four types: First, action to open the doors of ownership to tenants who now have the requisite ability and experience but who can become owners only with the assistance of liberal credit, on long terms and technical advice; second, modest loans, with the necessary guidance and education to prevent small owners from slipping into tenancy, and to help the masses of tenants, croppers and farm laborers at the very bottom of the agricultural ladder increase their standards of living, achieve greater security and begin the upward climb toward land ownership; third, the retirement by public agencies of land proved to be unsuited for farming, and assistance to the families living thereon in finding homes on good land; fourth, cooperation with State and local agencies of government to improve the general leasing system.

Land Speculation Planned

The committee has very properly emphasized the importance of health and education in any long-time program for correcting the evils from which this large section of our population suffers.

Attention is also called to the part which land speculation has played in bringing insecurity into the lives of rural families, and to the necessity for eliminating sharp fluctuations in land value due to speculative activity in farm lands.

The attack on the problem of farm tenancy and farm security is a logical continuation of the agricultural program this administration has been developing since March 4, 1933. Necessarily, whatever program the Congress devises will have to be closely integrated with existing activities for maintaining farm income and for conserving and improving our agricultural resources.

Obviously, action by the States alone and independently cannot cure the widespread ill. A nation-wide program under Federal leadership and with the assistance of States, counties, communities and individuals is the only solution. Most Americans believe that our form of government does not prohibit action on behalf of those who need help.

TENANCY RECOMMENDATION

Preliminary excerpts from the recommendations on farm tenancy to be sent to Congress by the President indicate that the effort to develop a better agricultural economy will be spread over a broad front.

The Bankhead-Jones tenant farm purchase bill will be the spearhead of the attack, providing financial assistance to worthy tenants interested in purchasing their own farms.

The hearings conducted by the tenancy commission brought forth numerous suggestions, many of which have been passed on to the President and will be considered by Congress.

One of the suggestions which will be given consideration is a tax on land sales to discourage speculation. Land booms have been recognized as one of the major factors in the increase in tenancy and the land sale tax offers the possibility of an effective curb on speculation.

Other suggestions, the first of which embodies the Bankhead-Jones bill, include:

1. Creation of a farm security corporation to buy good farms and sell them to selected tenants, at low interest and on a 40-year payment plan. Tenants would have to pass a five-year trial before they could contract to purchase.
2. Federal purchase of 100,000,000 acres of poor crop land to be retired from cultivation. This would be bought at the rate of 3,000,000 to 5,000,000 acres annually.
3. Creation of a farm security administration to direct tenancy reforms.
4. Expansion of credit facilities on a more liberal basis than offered by the Farm Credit Administration and other agencies.

In addition to Federal aid, those who have studied the tenancy problem have seen the need of State cooperation. The commission recommends State legislation along the following lines to encourage independent farmers:

1. Improve landlord-tenant relations.
2. Set up arbitration councils to settle lease disputes.
3. Provide compensation for tenants who improve rented property.
4. Amend tax laws to aid small farmers.

The system of tenancy has become so firmly entrenched that immediate and far-reaching relief cannot be expected. Generations have been required in such nations as Denmark, Ireland and Sweden to break away from it completely, and the United States can look forward to many years of concerted effort before achieving the desired objective. But the heartening fact is that the nation has accepted the challenge and is preparing for action.

PROBLEM IN ECONOMICS

From Walter Parker, the New Orleans cotton economist, comes the information that the Japanese government has started experimental cotton production in Costa Rica. Japanese families have been sent there and are to be provided seed, technical advice and implements.

If cotton is produced successfully it will be sold to Japan in exchange for Japanese goods.

The South sells Japan cotton, too. But the United States does not want to buy Japanese products in exchange.

The Southern farmer sells a Japanese merchant a bale of cotton for $60, the regular price. If he could accept in exchange Japanese goods he would get approximately $180 worth.

Which will be better off economically the Costa Rican planter or the Southern planter?

Agriculture - 1937
Condition of

General

Excerpts From The Speech Of Agricultural Economist At Mid-South Farm Forum

J. E. Wills, Educator at University of Tennessee, Talks Before Plant To Prosper Winners On Problems Vital to Farmers

Excerpts from the address of J. E. Wills, associate agricultural economist, Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology, University of Tennessee, before the Mid-South Farm Forum, are:

During the years just after 1900 a young professor at the agricultural college of one of our neighboring states began to teach what he called "Farm Management." At the same time he was beginning to develop, from his study of the business of farming, certain fundamentals that he called the "principles of farm management." The work of this young man attracted the attention of officials of the United States Department of Agriculture, and he was asked to come to Washington to explain his work. It was thought that perhaps he could even help the Department of Agriculture begin some work in farm management—if there really was such a thing as farm management.

This was but one incident in the beginning of farm management work shortly after 1900. It really began in a number of places at about the same time. Since then it has developed and grown until teaching, research and extension work in farm management is now part of the agricultural programs of all states as well as of the United States Department of Agriculture.

Let us first briefly state the objectives that we have in mind in making a farm plan. We can sum up these objectives by stating two goals, not entirely unrelated, that the plan must try to attain. These are: a continuous income at as high a level as is consistent with the resources of the farm and of the farm operator, and the conservation of the soil on which the farm plan is fundamentally based. While good living and a good life is obviously of even greater importance than mere income let us assume for the moment that this good living and good life will be brought about if we can attain a satisfactory standard of income. I shall touch on this matter again later. Note also that our income goal is one of continuous income.

In making a plan for the operation of your farm the first essential is to take a careful inventory of the physical, economic and personal resources with which you have to work. Of primary importance is the inventory of the land itself. We must endeavor to find out all we can about the types of soil and their adaptation and productivity for various uses and for various crops.

Requirements of Soil Must Be Known

We need to know the lime and other requirements of the soil and what response we may expect to different soil treatments. We need to know the characteristics of the soil with respect to drainage and with respect to erosion, and what it may require to correct and improve these conditions. This may sound like a big order. Yet I believe that, with your experience in operating your farms, and with the assistance that you can obtain from various agencies, you can readily make such an inventory of the land with which you work. And without such an inventory a successful plan cannot be set up.

We need also to take inventory of the buildings and other improvements on the farm, and their adequacy and adaptability to different enterprises. The equipment, work stock and other livestock on the farm must also be taken into account.

We need further to take into account certain external factors such as the types of markets available for different products, roads and other transportation facilities. The long-time outlook for the prices of different products, insofar as these can be anticipated, and the trends in types of farming in the area may also influence the farm plan.

And last, but by no means of least importance, there must be consideration of the personal qualifications of the farmer and of his family. The farmer's financial condition is obviously an important factor in making a plan which he can be expected to carry out. Also of importance is his experience and skill in conducting various enterprises; likewise his attitudes, likes and dislikes for particular types of work. I happen to have been reared in a strictly cash-grain section of Illinois in which the type of farming has long been one that has been described as "corn, oats and gasoline." I really do not know how long it would take to make good cattle feeders of many farmers in my home community, for many of them have neither the skill nor any interest in feeding. Not that they could not learn to be good feeders if they had the interest, but it is not a thing that they should jump into in a big way, but rather they should acquire the necessary experience gradually.

It is also obvious that the number of children in the family, and the amount of help that the farmer can expect from them, is also important in planning the farm business. Oftentimes the attitude of the farm wife is of equal importance.

After making this inventory of the physical, economic and personal factors on which the farm plan is to be made you are ready for the plan itself. First we shall consider the crop plan; first, because it is always of fundamental importance on all farms. The problem here is to decide what crops to grow, where on the farm to grow them, in what sequence or rotation, and how many acres of each.

After the crop plan, or we might better say right along with it, we develop the livestock plan. Here we consider such questions as what kinds of livestock to produce, how many of each type, how they shall be fed, what will be the livestock breeding and management program, and how the livestock and livestock products will be marketed.

In making the farm plan the problem of soil conservation should be definitely recognized. To a considerable extent erosion problems can be solved by a proper cropping system, including permanent cover on the most erosive land and a system of cropping that employs short rotations with frequent row crops only on land not subject to serious erosion. The use of winter cover crops and of rotations including soil-building legumes are other ways in which the problem of soil conservation may be at least partly solved through the crop plan. But frequently the crop plan is not enough and the conservation of the soils may demand such things as terraces and other mechanical means of erosion control, contour or strip farming, and the application of limestone and fertilizers. Usually such improvements cannot be made all at once but the farm plan should establish a definite program by which they will be accomplished. This is also the situation where the farm buildings need much repair or replacement.

Plan Should Estimate All Major Expenses

The farm plan should make some approximation of the total income that should result from its operation. It should also estimate the major expenses to be incurred and when they will fall due so that plans can be made for having funds with which to meet them.

Another thing, the importance of which has come to be better appreciated of late, is the advantage of securing from the farm as much of the farm family living and as much of the feeds necessary for livestock as possible. This means the planning for an ample garden and orchard and for the production and preservation and storage of vegetables, fruits, meats and other food products.

The question may well be raised as to the length of time for which our farm plan is being made. Fundamentally it should be a long-time plan, looking ahead for a number of years toward a desired goal. We have already indicated that certain desired objectives—for example new buildings and soil improvement—require us to look ahead, but to develop for each year a small part of that ultimate goal. Thus we make annual plans within our long-time basic plans. Even the long-time plan will need to be revised and adjusted as unforeseen developments occur and as there may be a particularly favorable or unfavorable outlook for some particular product for the year immediately ahead.

I do not claim that you can establish a farm plan that will serve as an iron bound guide for the operation of your farm year after year. But I do claim that most farmers who are successful over a period of years have definite objectives toward which they are working, and that they further have some sort of plan by which they hope to attain those goals. And I do claim, further, that it is far better to systematize your thinking about your farm business and to make a plan, even though the plan must be modified or changed from time to time, than it is to drift along with no plan at all.

A good plan may fail to bear fruit because the operator falls down on these daily tasks. He may do such a poor job of preparing or cultivating his ground, or of harvesting or marketing his crop that the benefits of a good plan are lost. He may also be such a poor feeder or take such poor care of his stock that they fail to return even the value of the feed that they consume. Or he may be such a poor manager of his own time and that of hired laborers and such a poor manager with respect to other items that his costs are out of all proportion to his income.

Let us pass to a consideration of certain specific factors that influence profits in farming. Farm management studies throughout the country have demonstrated that there are certain factors of general importance in influencing earnings. But let us consider specifically those factors that are of greatest influence in the earnings of Mid-South farms. Without attempting to rank them in their relative importance I shall first state five factors that seem to me of greatest importance in influencing the earnings of farms in this area. Then we will discuss each of these factors in turn. The five points are

First: Obtaining from the farm itself as large a proportion of the farm family living as possible, with little reliance on the cash purchase of items that can be produced at home.

Second: A sufficient volume of business to adequately provide for a satisfactory standard of living with respect to those items that cannot be produced at home.

Third: Diversification of production, and of income.

Fourth: Efficiency in the use of labor and power.

Fifth: Soil conservation.

Living At Home Of Importance

The first of these factors has properly been emphasized in the "living-at-home" part of the Plan To Prosper contest. While the importance of "living-at-home" is being recognized throughout the country, it is of particular importance here in the Mid-South, where a relatively large farm population with resulting small farms, is likely to mean relatively low cash income per farm family. This emphasis on living at home may appear to be a reversal of the long-time trend toward a more highly commercialized type of agriculture. Perhaps so, but this emphasis is toward a better living and a more stable living for farm families, and is hence sound.

I need not talk long about "living-at-home" to this audience. I have seen pictures of your pantries and food cellars and have read of the quantities of farm grown produce that you have stored up for Winter.

Let me leave this subject with just one more thought. We hear a good deal about the disadvantage of the farmer in always selling at wholesale and buying at retail. My thought is this: The only farm products that most of you can sell at retail are those you can use at home.

Some of you no doubt read a couple of weeks ago of the homespun humor with which an Oklahoma senator adressed Congress in relation to the farm problem. The ideal farmer, according to the senator, is the one who has fruit most of the year and "eats all he can and cans all he can't." The senator went on to say that he once worked for three years for such a farmer as a hired man, and that he never caught the old man asleep, except in church. "Why," he said, "at night that old fellow would just take off his britches and throw them under the bed, roll over and meet them on the other side, and yell for me to go out and feed the stock." Well, I suppose that growing a lot of food for home use does require a good deal of work, but isn't it worth it?

But, important as is "living-at-home," we cannot be entirely self sufficient, and my second point relates to the volume of income or receipts that is essential in order to adequately supply those things that must be purchased if a satisfactory standard of living is to be provided.

In order to have some objective evidence regarding some of these farm management principles I have obtained from the Tennessee Agricultural Extension Service certain information from the West Tennessee farms co-operating in the farm accounting project, and the way in which the farmer's returns varied with the total receipts from the farm. In this analysis we have measured the farmer's returns by "labor income," which is the return that the farmer received for his own labor for the year, after deducting all expenses of operating the business and after allowing a fair return for the capital invested in the business. Note that as a group those farms that had less than $500 total receipts for the year not only worked for nothing, if you want to look at it that way, but they actually lacked $41 of paying all expenses. Those with from $500 to $1000 total receipts had $138 for their year's labor; those with from $1000 to $1500 receipts had $383; $565 for those with $1500 to $2000; and those farmers who had over $2000 total receipts received $1148 for labor income. These data are certainly good evidence that a farmer must have a reasonably high gross income if he is to enjoy satisfactory net returns from his farming operations.

High Receipts Product Of Two Endeavors

How can the farmer go about getting these higher receipts? It seems to me that high receipts, in so far as they are within the control of the farmer, are the product of just two things. These are: First, having a good size of business—that is, having plenty of work to do — and second, through high production rates, obtaining good income for the amount of work expended. Although a large business is easier to set up on a farm that is large in acres, size of business is much more than acres. Many a farmer with small acreage is doing a big business by a proper selection and combination of enterprises on his small area. Naturally, if his acreage is small he should stress those enterprises that are intensive in that they have a high labor requirement and yield high returns per unit. Intensive enterprise includes such crops as cotton, tobacco, sweet potatoes, and truck crops, and such livestock enterprise as dairying and poultry products.

From such farm analyses as these the Tennessee Extension Service in Farm Management has set up as a standard that the average farm in the state should have 300 or more days of productive work. Too many farms are attempting to make a half-year or less of work carry the burden of producing income for the family for 365 days of the year. Can you expect farmers or anyone else, to do that and have the kind of income that you desire?

We need not dwell here on all of the things that are involved in improving crop yields. I see the problem as being three fold. First, better yields involve soil improvement, including erosion control, crop rotation including soil building legumes and application of limestone and fertilizers. Second, better yields involve better seed. Third, better yields involve good husbandry, which to me means doing a good job of preparing the ground for the crop and a good job of cultivating and harvesting it, and above all, being timely in the various operations —doing the various operations at as near the optimum time as possible.

Diversification Sound In Its Principle

I have discussed two of my five points in the farm management program for this region. My third point is diversification. Now I know that you have already heard a great deal about the need for diversification—and probably your daddies heard a lot about it too. So I do not need to say so much about it—no more than to point out why diversification is of particular importance to the region. Diversification is sound in principle, both from the standpoint of production efficiency and from the standpoint of income. From the standpoint of production the basis of diversification lies in the fact that different farm enterprises make different demands on the resources of the farm. Some demand labor at one time, some at another; consequently a number of enterprises spread the demand for labor more evenly through the year and makes a better utilization of a given labor supply. Likewise a better utilization is made of equipment and of power units. Different enterprises also have different requirements in the use they make of land and a diversified system makes it possible to utilize various types of land to advantage. Thus the utilization of land better adapted to pasture than to crops may be affected by the addition or increase of a livestock enterprise.

Analysis of many farm records over a period of years leads to this recommendation for Tennessee farms in general; the farm should have three or more important sources of income. On small farms at least two of these sources should be from intensive enterprises, and on larger farms at least one should be an intensive enterprise. Study of the sources of income from the West Tennessee farms would indicate that these accounting farms as a group are quite well diversified. They averaged over five sources of income in 1936, probably considerably more than the average of all farms in the area.

The last two of my five points in a farm program I shall treat very briefly. I consider that efficient use of labor and power is one of the most important factors in profitable farming in this region. The biggest single factor that many of you have to contribute to your farming is your time and that of members of your families. Therefore the efficient use of this time is of great importance. Much of what I have said about increasing the size of business and about diversification makes for a better use of labor. A combination of enterprises that tends to distribute labor through the year makes it possible for one man to accomplish more total productive work during the year. Much can also be done in the planning and scheduling of farm work. We all know that there are many different kinds of jobs on a farm. Some of these must be done during relatively narrow time limits to be most effective—such as planting crops at the optimum time, cultivation before the weeds get ahead of you, or harvesting the crop before it is too ripe or before unfavorable weather sets in. Other jobs can be effectively done at most any time of the year—or at least over a longer period without detriment. Likewise some jobs can be done only when the ground is dry and weather clear. Others can be done when the ground is wet and some even when it is raining. The test of a farm manager, insofar as labor is concerned, is how nearly all of the days on which some particular jobs can and should be done are actually available for these jobs. If you have had the experience of having to stop putting in a crop to get the cows out of the neighbors field when you knew that the fence had needed repair for a long time; or, if you have had to hold up a harvesting crew while you went to town for a machine part that you knew was worn out, you know exactly what I mean.

Links Prosperity Of Farms, Cities

The problem of soil conservation is also of very great importance but I have already treated it—although quite inadequately—in the discussion of making the plan for the farm. Furthermore each farmer present here today has demonstrated an acquaintance with the soil conservation problem and also that he has gone a good ways toward putting soil conservation practices into effect. I shall not attempt to treat this important problem further at this time.

Let me close my remarks with a few words about something not exactly farm management, but pretty close to it. In my remarks I have not assumed that I was talking to an average group of Mid-South farm men and women. By your presence here you indicate that you are well above the average in adopting these practices that make for successful farming and successful farm living. This does not mean that you cannot make further improvements, and your success so far should serve as a stimulus to even greater success. But my thought is this: will you not use your influence in seeing that these things that have been a part of your success are more generally adopted by your neighbors? This you will do largely by your example. I do not believe, as I have heard it said, that the successful farmer is usually an unpopular man in his community. Rather do I see you men and women as the logical and popular leaders toward better farming in your communities. It is to your own interest that this better farming be spread throughout these communities. Only as this is done can you reap the full benefits of your own efforts — benefits such as better schools, better churches, better roads and better community life.

Finally may I repeat a thought that we have all heard frequently expressed in late years. It is the thought that prosperity of the men and women in our cities is very closely related to the prosperity of the men and women in the surrounding countryside. To a large extent their tides rise and fall together, and they must co-operate one with the other. And I feel that this civic organization is to be commended for its program that has brought together farm and business leaders in the interest of the Plant to Prosper contest.

Agriculture - 1937
Condition of.

General

IN THE COTTON BELT

"Poor Whites" and Negroes

[This is the first of two articles by Sir John Harris describing a tour through the cotton belt of the United States. The second article will appear next week.]

By Sir John Harris

TENNESSEE, SEPTEMBER.

I was recently invited to join a group of experts in Negro affairs on a journey of nearly 2,000 miles through the cotton fields of the South. We numbered five persons, including Dr. Johnson, Negro statistician, better known to the British public as the American member of the Liberian Commission appointed by the President of the United States, but we did not always work together—indeed, I began in other districts—and were joined by "experts" at various points.

The cotton belt stretches roughly 1,600 miles, from the Carolinas to Western Texas, and away south to the Mississippi, in the form of a gigantic crescent embracing ten States. In this vast area we saw evidence of the approaching harvest which may exceed 15,000,000 bales. In the Carolinas and Kentucky the boll had only just begun to open, but farther south, in Alabama, the pickers were everywhere busy filling with extraordinary zest the landlords' sacks, while all along the roadway of Alabama our car jostled with lorries laden with freshly picked cotton and the air was heavily scented with the warm odour of newly ginned seed. In the fields Negro men and women looked gay in their patched cotton gowns, and the men were cheerful in spite of their ragged trousers and outworn Mexican straw hats. One family hoped to pick 550lb—the man 200lb., his wife 150lb., and his two daughters 100lb. each. "But," he added, "that nigger woman over dere with yellow hat, she'll pick 350lb. to-day." A bright, sunny day in Alabama, with cotton fields showing white and gay and Negro pickers laughing and singing at their work, is a joyous picture, but it is not a true picture of the condition of 8,000,000 people. To quote one commission, it is "a miserable panorama of unpainted shacks, rain-gullied fields, straggling fences, rattletrap Fords, dirt, poverty, drudgery, monotony." For my part I have never seen such poverty and squalor, —not even in Central Africa.

What is this system which still holds the South in the grip of slavery? First there are the landlords, who are still where they were before the Civil War, but are now themselves enslaved in debt. These landlords allow poor whites and Negroes to occupy their mortgaged lands upon a sharing system. A shock was administered to the American public when it was discovered that there are more poverty-stricken white people than Negroes engaged in cotton-growing, the proportion being approximately 5,000,000 whites to 3,000,000 coloured persons. These tenants and "croppers" generally hold the land upon a fifty-fifty basis, payable in two instalments. The landowner advances at a high rate of interest "furnishings," which include food, tools, and sometimes doctor's attendance. The furnishings are generally about 4s. a month per acre planted with cotton, and are paid monthly only from March until September or October. When the harvest comes and the sale of the cotton the landlord collects the cotton, "gins" and sells the lint and seed, and hands the tenant. without any account, his half of the proceeds less the accumulated furnishings—less interest.

These croppers are uneconomical because they are inefficient. They are not expected to exercise initiative; they are expected to do what they are told to do. They are not supposed to be resourceful; they are supposed to be attentive, obedient, and cheerful. They seldom apply themselves to their tasks with enthusiasm. Their inadequate diet, their submerged status in the community, their subservient relation to the landlord, and the meagre returns for their labour leave them with low vitality and without an economic motive. The whole system is for 75 per cent of the croppers one of debt bondage and for the landlords little better.

There is much discussion as to the amount the tenant farmers and croppers receive, and nobody claims that more than a few get a living wage. Indeed, 24.2 per cent of white croppers and 18.75 per cent of Negroes are insolvent. In a public affairs statement the position of 112 croppers is given. The furnishings amounted to 63 per cent of their wage, and when their debt had been paid it was found that the balance each family of four persons received worked out at fivepence (ten cents) a day! In 600 cases the net average received in November was $90 (£18) upon which to keep the family until the following March, when furnishings could again be drawn upon. A larger group of 2,000 families taken from South Carolina, Mississippi, Alabama, and Texas gave the average as $105 (£21). True, they have what serves as a "house" and a garden. Who, having visited these tenant homes, can forget them? They are not homes but little wooden cabins, most of them dilapidated, with boards rotten and broken. Few have any windows or interior doors, none has any sanitary arrangements, few have water, and none has light. Out of the hundreds we saw, for example, in the Mississippi Delta, not one had ever been painted, although a few had been whitewashed. The open cracks in the boards left the wind and rain to drive through in spite of rough attempts to nail old newspapers and brown paper over them. Not a few were actually the old slave cabins. Only 1.3 per cent of the white tenants had sinks and none of the Negroes. The beds and bedsteads were of the roughest kind, and there was no privacy.

Their food is of the poorest quality. According to Robert Vance, maize contributes 32.5 per cent of the Southern tenant farmer's diet, as against 1.6 per cent in the Northern States; the diet is further made up of sweet potatoes, sorghum, and an occasional piece of "fatback." Few of the families we visited possessed a cow and none had been able to eat chicken or an egg for months. Only 57.5 per cent of white women and 8.3 per cent of Negroes had doctors at confinement. Only 86.5 per cent of whites and 70.8 per cent of Negroes could read and write. The average number of books in the houses of white tenant croppers was 2.69 and of Negroes 1.5. The number of times recreation had been taken in the year was poor whites 1.4, Negroes .92. Dr. Johnson in reply to a question received this characteristic reply: "We can't get any flour, snuff, shoes, sugar, coffee, thread, or anything from the landlord but meat and meal. We have a divil of a time. No soap, soda, or salt. Can't borrow a dime, not a damn cent. If this ain't hell, I'll eat you. We work our damn heads off and git nothing. The harder we work the deeper in debt we gits."

The trail of usury is everywhere. The landlord pays the relatively low interest of 10 per cent for his mortgage, because in law the tenant's cotton crop is his property, and thus he alone has "security." The tenants and croppers have to pay up to 25 per cent and even 30 per cent on furnishings and even more on such loans as can be raised. I received an amusing if tragic illustration of this. A merry-hearted picker in Montgomery County had given me so much information and I had taken such a slice out of his time that just before leaving I could not refrain from throwing him a "quarter" (1s.). His unrestrained gratitude was only equalled by the hilarity of an educated man standing near. Upon inquiring the cause of this hilarity I was told: "That's the first quarter he has seen for months, and he will soon be surrounded by others like him, each of whom will readily offer a dollar (payable in October), and he will then make nearly 500 per cent interest on his great good fortune!"

Never will I forget a talk with two Negro women, the first a grey-headed, neatly attired Negress, the second a bright, cheerful, young married woman living in a tiny cabin, its floor-boards sparkling clean, with a carefully tended little flower-patch in front. It was the same story of utter poverty which met us everywhere. To both of them I put the same questions: "How on earth do you live?" Both gave the usual reply: "I've got a few sweet taters and a few beans and our chickens will lay us a few eggs; we shall get no meat till March." "Any money?" "No, boss, not a cent." Then another question: "Yet in spite of all your troubles you seem cheerful?"

No. 1: "Yes, boss, but look down there at 'Old Man River' [the Mississippi]; he goes rollin' along, carrying all his troubles without grumblin', so we does the same. Then, too, we remembers that when there were three in the fiery furnace that sees "

No. 2: "It ain't no use to grumble, so we shows our smiles to de white boss and we shows our tears to de Lord."

Agriculture - 1937
Condition of.

General

IN THE COTTON BELT

"Poor Whites" and Negroes

[This is the first of two articles by Sir John Harris describing a tour through the cotton belt of the United States. The second article will appear next week.]

By Sir John Harris

TENNESSEE, SEPTEMBER.

I was recently invited to join a group of experts in Negro affairs on a journey of nearly 2,000 miles through the cotton fields of the South. We numbered five persons, including Dr. Johnson, Negro statistician, better known to the British public as the American member of the Liberian Commission appointed by the President of the United States, but we did not always work together—indeed, I began in other districts—and were joined by "experts" at various points.

The cotton belt stretches roughly 1,600 miles, from the Carolinas to Western Texas, and away south to the Mississippi, in the form of a gigantic crescent embracing ten States. In this vast area we saw evidence of the approaching harvest which may exceed 15,000,000 bales. In the Carolinas and Kentucky the boll had only just begun to open, but farther south, in Alabama, the pickers were everywhere busy filling with extraordinary zest the landlords' sacks, while all along the roadway of Alabama our car jostled with lorries laden with freshly picked cotton and the air was heavily scented with the warm odour of newly ginned seed. In the fields Negro men and women looked gay in their patched cotton gowns, and the men were cheerful in spite of their ragged trousers and outworn Mexican straw hats. One family hoped to pick 550lb—the man 200lb., his wife 150lb., and his two daughters 100lb. each. "But," he added, "that nigger woman over dere with yellow hat, she'll pick 350lb. to-day." A bright, sunny day in Alabama, with cotton fields showing white and gay and Negro pickers laughing and singing at their work, is a joyous picture, but it is not a true picture of the condition of 8,000,000 people. To quote one commission, it is "a miserable panorama of unpainted shacks, rain-gullied fields, straggling fences, rattletrap Fords, dirt, poverty, drudgery, monotony." For my part I have never seen such poverty and squalor, —not even in Central Africa.

What is this system which still holds the South in the grip of slavery? First there are the landlords, who are still where they were before the Civil War, but are now themselves enslaved in debt. These landlords allow poor whites and Negroes to occupy their mortgaged lands upon a sharing system. A shock was administered to the American public when it was discovered that there are more poverty-stricken white people than Negroes engaged in cotton-growing, the proportion being approximately 5,000,000 whites to 3,000,000 coloured persons. These tenants and "croppers" generally hold the land upon a fifty-fifty basis, payable in two instalments. The landowner advances at a high rate of interest "furnishings," which include food, tools, and sometimes doctor's attendance. The furnishings are generally about 4s. a month per acre planted with cotton, and are paid monthly only from March until September or October. When the harvest comes and the sale of the cotton the landlord collects the cotton, "gins" and sells the lint and seed, and hands the tenant, without any account, his half of the proceeds less the accumulated furnishings—less interest.

These croppers are uneconomical because they are inefficient. They are not expected to exercise initiative; they are expected to do what they are told to do. They are not supposed to be resourceful; they are supposed to be attentive, obedient, and cheerful. They seldom apply themselves to their tasks with enthusiasm. Their inadequate diet, their submerged status in the community, their subservient relation to the landlord, and the meagre returns for their labour leave them with low vitality and without an economic motive. The whole system is for 75 per cent of the croppers one of debt bondage and for the landlords little better.

There is much discussion as to the amount the tenant farmers and croppers receive, and nobody claims that more than a few get a living wage. Indeed, 24.2 per cent of white croppers and 18.75 per cent of Negroes are insolvent. In a public affairs statement the position of 112 croppers is given. The furnishings amounted to 63 per cent of their wage, and when their debt had been paid it was found that the balance each family of four persons received worked out at fivepence (ten cents) a day! In 600 cases the net average received in November was $90 (£18) upon which to keep the family until the following March, when furnishings could again be drawn upon. A larger group of 2,000 families taken from South Carolina, Mississippi, Alabama, and Texas gave the average as $105 (£21). True, they have what serves as a "house" and a garden. Who, having visited these tenant homes, can forget them? They are not homes but little wooden cabins, most of them dilapidated, with boards rotten and broken. Few have any windows or interior doors, none has any sanitary arrangements, few have water, and none has light. Out of the hundreds we saw, for example, in the Mississippi Delta, not one had ever been painted, although a few had been whitewashed. The open cracks in the boards left the wind and rain to drive through in spite of rough attempts to nail old newspapers and brown paper over them. Not a few were actually the old slave cabins. Only 1.3 per cent of the white tenants had sinks and none of the Negroes. The beds and bedsteads were of the roughest kind, and there was no privacy.

Their food is of the poorest quality. According to Robert Vance, maize contributes 32.5 per cent of the Southern tenant farmer's diet, as against 1.6 per cent in the Northern States; the diet is further made up of sweet potatoes, sorghum, and an occasional piece of "fatback." Few of the families we visited possessed a cow and none had been able to eat chicken or an egg for months. Only 57.5 per cent of white women and 8.3 per cent of Negroes had doctors at confinement. Only 86.5 per cent of whites and 70.8 per cent of Negroes could read and write. The average number of books in the houses of white tenant croppers was 2.69 and of Negroes 1.5. The number of times recreation had been taken in the year was poor whites 1.4, Negroes .92. Dr. Johnson in reply to a question received this characteristic reply: "We can't get any flour, snuff, shoes, sugar, coffee, thread, or anything from the landlord but meat and meal. We have a divil of a time. No soap, soda, or salt. Can't borrow a dime, not a damn cent. If this ain't hell, I'll eat you. We work our damn heads off and git nothing. The harder we work the deeper in debt we gits."

The trail of usury is everywhere. The landlord pays the relatively low interest of 10 per cent for his mortgage, because in law the tenant's cotton crop is his property, and thus he alone has "security." The tenants and croppers have to pay up to 25 per cent and even 30 per cent on furnishings and even more on such loans as can be raised. I received an amusing if tragic illustration of this. A merry-hearted picker in Montgomery County had given me so much information and I had taken such a slice out of his time that just before leaving I could not refrain from throwing him a "quarter" (1s.). His unrestrained gratitude was only equalled by the hilarity of an educated man standing near. Upon inquiring the cause of this hilarity I was told: "That's the first quarter he has seen for months, and he will soon be surrounded by others like him, each of whom will readily offer a dollar (payable in October), and he will then make nearly 500 per cent interest on his great good fortune!"

Never will I forget a talk with two Negro women, the first a grey-headed, neatly attired Negress, the second a bright, cheerful, young married woman living in a tiny cabin, its floorboards sparkling clean, with a carefully tended little flower-patch in front. It was the same story of utter poverty which met us everywhere. To both of them I put the same questions: "How on earth do you live?" Both gave the usual reply: "I've got a few sweet taters and a few beans and our chickens will lay us a few eggs; we shall get no meat till March." "Any money?" "No, boss, not a cent." Then another question: "Yet in spite of all your troubles you seem cheerful?"

No. 1: "Yes, boss, but look down there at 'Old Man River' [the Mississippi]; he goes rollin' along, carrying all his troubles without grumblin', so we does the same.

IN THE COTTON BEL

Schemes of Renovation

[This is the second of two articles describing a tour through the cotton belt of the United States. The first article appeared last week.]

By Sir John Harris

MISSISSIPPI DELTA, SEPTEMBER.

The way of economic salvation for cotton-growing is not yet apparent, but hope is rising, and the most encouraging feature is the awakening of public opinion. One Negro voiced the general hope of his fellows when he said they were "looking for a Moses." There are several candidates for the post. The head of a State department in Tennessee is an enthusiast for education; Dr. Sherwood Eddy is endeavouring to demonstrate in the Mississippi Delta that the right way is ownership for all by all. Business men are doing much hard thinking, and some are devoting money made in other spheres to experiments in the South. President Roosevelt is running some "New Deal" tenant-sharing schemes up in the Blue Ridge Mountains and also down in the Mississippi Delta, all of which are interesting but cost such large sums of money that any large-scale developments are prohibitive.

There is no longer any doubt that the South is showing a great deal of initiative and determination and a recognition that the Negro is its job and that it is up to it to save him, if only because otherwise the South will sink with him. It is agreed on all hands that pro-Negro sentiment is waning in the North without much good reason, while it is waxing in the South for solid reasons. The causes of this change are difficult to appraise. First place is generally given to the great migration of 1916-25, during which more than 1,500,000 Negroes flocked from the South to the North, crowding industrial centres like Detroit, where the Negro population has risen during the period from 5,000 to 70,000. This has had a dual effect. The planters and business men of Dixieland, alarmed at the loss of labourers, were stirred to do some hard thinking, while the prosperous people of the Northern cities were not quite sure that they were right to give so much encouragement to thousands of impoverished and debilitated Negroes to settle in their midst.

But the various schemes when taken collectively are less than a drop in the ocean. There are four main groups. The most "Left" of these is the one established by Sherwood Eddy, which is being tried at Hillhouse, on the Mississippi. It may have been the atrocious roads leading us to it, or the storm which engulfed everything but the bright enthusiasm of Eddy's leaders, or the vigorous "doctrines" preached to us; but, whatever it was, we came away without any wild enthusiasm for the contribution which Eddy's 350 earnest workers on 2,000 acres would make to the problem affecting a farm tenant population of 8,000,000 people on nearly 250,000,000 acres of land! Dr. Eddy's scheme covers 2,000 acres, of which about 600 are cultivated. Of course it has been "subsidised," and friends and workers are full of enthusiasm. Everybody shares the hardships and profits (if any) equally. "Realistic religion" is the motive spirit, and the community upholds the principles of co-operative effort. All the other "New Dealers" sniff at a system which, as one put it, gives "plenty of philosophy but no ownership"!

At the other extreme is the "Tory-Socialist," the best type of whom we found on the Yazoo. He was approaching 90 years of age, newly married, very happy, and joyously sure of his Methodism and his soul's salvation. He and his father had owned slaves before the Civil War, and after the war his freed slaves remained with him as paid workers. But he was a great lover and admirer of the Negro, and the policy he was pursuing was that of encouraging his tenant Negro croppers in thrift so that they could march with him to prosperity. He charged them a low rate of interest on "furnishings," helped them to buy stock, and taught them the arts of husbandry and especially the value of Methodism—and at all times thrift. Although he had every sympathy with the efforts of Sherwood Eddy's group and some admiration for President Roosevelt's schemes, and was even prepared to rejoice at any success they attained, he had little confidence in their leading to anything but bankruptcy. But he was the embodiment of the spirit amongst the old-time Southerners who are looking earnestly for some way of economic salvation for cotton.

The best example of the third group of schemes we found close to one of the huge "levees." This is being run by the managing director of a large store and is unique. There are now altogether 350 persons engaged upon this novel scheme of cotton-growing. The author of the venture boldly propagates the conception of white and Negro partnerships on equal terms—that is, a bona-fide sharing of expenditure as well as income. These are the results of cotton-growing for one season carried out by 51 families totalling 275 people on one section. They produced, under his direction, 700 bales of cotton from 950 acres of Mississippi land; they sold the cotton and seed for £12,280. From this were taken the following deductions for materials supplied at wholesale prices:—Food for people and cattle, seed fertilisers, and so on, amounting to £3,000; interest on advances of loans for transport, £3,000; and £300 for "management," leaving a credit balance of £5,980, or £113 5s. per family for cotton products alone. In addition there was free rent, free fuel, free feed for stock, because outlay was included in the charges. Each of the tenant croppers was supplied with an audited statement of accounts every month. Each had the whole of his own proceeds from sale of pigs and poultry. This merchant landlord also arranged—and this was no light matter—for first claim on adequate lorries and carts for removal of stock if the Mississippi broke the adjoining levee and flooded the area. The Sherwood Eddy scheme ignores the desire, deep-seated in both Negro and poor white, for a piece of "our very own" farmland and some stock. In the foregoing case the owner looks forward to the time when his tenants will buy their farms. Already the five years' experiment shows an increase in the capital value of Negro stock on the farms from $4,000 to $12,000.

The President's "New Deal" proposals recognise that one of the surest routes to any sort of prosperity is that the element of ownership must be incorporated in every reform scheme. We saw the homestead venture for unemployed on the slopes of the Blue Ridge Mountains and the tenant-sharing scheme 800 miles south on the Mississippi. There is also an interesting Negro scheme at Gee's Bend on the Alabama River. President Roosevelt began with some startling facts staring him in the face. First, in thirty years farm ownerships had dropped nearly 10 per cent and tenancy (sharing) had risen 20 per cent. Next, the "cropper" class alone represented 39 per cent of all tenants in the South, which, at four persons per family, makes 3,000,000 people. The principles of the "New Deal" settler scheme include security of tenancy leading to ownership, coupled with generous advances of cash and goods to strictly selected tenants. But the schemes are so few and so limited that they cannot on their present scale make much impression on so colossal a problem. Finally, none of these schemes has yet touched the stranglehold of the countless mortgage bonds, held by every interest in cotton and secured on farm implements and crops, which are officially estimated to exceed £2,200,000,000 in value.

Agriculture - 1937
Condition of.

General.

THE SOUTH TODAY

Gullies and Dust Storms

By ARTHUR RAPER

(Copyright, 1937, by Southern Newspaper Syndicate)

Editor's note: Arthur Raper, who is acting professor of sociology at Agnes Scott College and research secretary of the commission on interracial co-operation, in Atlanta, is considered a leading authority on economic and social conditions of the South. Dr. Raper's latest book, A Preface to Peasantry, is the most ambitious study ever made of the plight of the tenant farmer and share-cropper, and his articles in leading magazines and newspapers have created wide attention and praise.

ARTHUR RAPER

As one rides across the South, the evidence of damage produced by soil erosion is unmistakable. Scattered over the Appalachian Highlands one sees twisted cabins on washed hillsides. In the Piedmont region the countryside is literally streaked with gullies. Much of the coastal plain is already blotched by sterile, yellow spots caused by sheet erosion. Though the great river bottoms are less affected, large areas there are now producing but half what they did a short generation ago. In the uplands west of the Delta, soil depletion moves apace. The damage produced by water until the trees are left behind, and then by wind.

It is heartening that Southern people are beginning to be aware of the need for conserving soil fertility, our greatest natural resource. In response to the government's agricultural program, soil erosion billboards may be observed in a few counties, and almost everywhere in the South there is an increase of legumes and forage crops. Good terraces, too, are becoming more common, while forest fires are fading from the scene as observation towers appear throughout widely scattered areas. An increased number of books, pamphlets, magazine articles, news items, and editorial comments are emphasizing the need of checking soil erosion, whether caused by exploitative farm practices, deforestation, over-grazing, or dry farming. We are beginning to learn that land can blow away as well as wash away—that it is as important to return grass to much of the Southeast as to re-forest much of the Southwest.

Unsound Practices

Looked at realistically, the Southeast's gullies and the Southwest's dust storms are products of the same unsound practices. The dust storm is the younger brother of the gully. Traditional Americanism fathered them both. The "dust bowl" was produced by the same philosophy which justified slavery and soil depletion in the old cotton belt. Before 1880 it was considered good business to use slaves instead of free labor because greater profits could be made, and after Emancipation cotton was grown as cheaply as possible for the same reason. Within the last quarter of a century it was considered good business to turn semi-arid grass lands into wheat fields when dry farming by power-driven machinery, coupled with an expanded market for cereals, made it possible to pile up fabulous dividends.

But, as Sears has well said, "Nature is not to be conquered save on her own terms. She is not conciliated by cleverness or industry in devising means to defeat the operation of one of her laws through the workings of another. She is a very business-like old lady, who plays no favorites."

With fifty inches of rainfall, nature retaliates slowly in the Southeast; with less than twenty inches, she retaliates swiftly in the Southwest. As the rainfall becomes smaller, the balance of life becomes more delicate. Fifty months of exploitative farm practices in the treeless Panhandle have produced as much havoc as fifty years of equally exploitative practices in the heavily wooded area of the Southeast. Gullies beset the descendants of those who chopped down the virgin forests of the Southeast; dust storms choke the very man who first plowed up the native grasses of the plains.

* * *

Soil Fertility Lost

In yet another respect the Southwest's dust storm is the younger brother of the Southeast's gully. For it was the loss of soil fertility in the old agricultural South and East which made the wheat farmers turn so greedily upon the semi-arid grass lands during the World War period. It was pointed out that the army could not be kept in the field with a fresh vegetable ration. Cereals were indispensable. And the farmers who turned the grass lands into wheat fields, under the double impulse of national patriotism and personal profits, are no more to be censured than those of us in the Southeast who patriotically ate cornbread and made as much money as we could.

With the loss of soil fertility through water erosion, farming in much of the upland plantation area of the Southeast has retrenched to patch farming, which has resulted in a sort of American peasantry. The semi-arid Southwest cannot retrench toward peasantry—it has too little water for farming on a small scale.

If dust storms are to be eliminated in the Southwest and if gullies are to be stopped in the Southeast, the full participation of the state and federal governments will be needed.

The "dust bowl" can be curbed only by an effective program for grass restoration. This will involve concerted efforts in a half dozen states, and extensive funds. There is involved, too, the necessity of relocating a considerable proportion of the people who live in the affected area. If grass is not restored, the desert will grow larger and additional millions of Americans will struggle with the dust and sand of the world's newest desert.

Many Problems

An effective program to stop the gullies of the Southeast is predicated on the restoration of the soil. Like the "dust bowl," the affected area lies in several states and there is the problem of relocating large numbers of families to arrange for needed reforestation, and for the use of soil-building crops and livestock farming to repair the soil depletion caused by the persistent planting of cotton and corn. This urgent need for relocating families in the South becomes the more evident as one observes numerous new shacks along the road in the poorer upland sections and empty tenant houses on the richest soils of the region. Recent population statistics clearly show this tendency of the South's rural people to decrease where the land is richest and to increase where it is poorest and cheapest.

Dust storms cannot be eliminated except at great expense to the entire nation. But they cannot be permitted to continue except at even greater national expense. The South's gullies, too, are a national liability—it will be costly to stop them; it will be more costly not to stop them.

Back of the Southeast's gullies and the Southwest's dust storms lies a mistaken idea, namely; that it is good economic policy to get more out of land than is put back. We have followed too long and too expensively this outmoded formula of the frontier; a virgin continent has been despoiled. To check dust storms and gullies, we shall have to put as much back into the land as is taken out; to be rid of them, we must put more into the land than is taken out. The natural balance was disturbed when we treated soil fertility as a marketable commodity; now the price of healing must be paid in terms of land usage which makes of soil fertility a social asset.

* * *

HUMAN VALUES INVOLVED

The ultimate key to constructive land usage is man. Fortunately, we are beginning to realize that dependency and improvidence are to society what gullies and dust storms are to land. Just as soil erosion is preceded by soil depletion, human erosion is preceded by loss of hope. And human erosion, like soil erosion, is expensive to check but more expensive if not checked.

Programs for adequate wages and a more widespread ownership of productive property, for comfortable dwellings and wholesome diet for a wider franchise and a larger community co-operation, for improved educational and health conditions—all these programs, whether governmental or otherwise, point toward the curing of human erosion, and deserve increased public support. For the South's profile can be cured of gullies and dust storms only as the rank and file of the farm folk are provided with economic and cultural motives to work intelligently and patriotically toward conserving and restoring soil fertility, their own greatest hope of an adequate life for themselves and for their children.

THE SOUTH TODAY

Lumber Costs in the South

By ARTHUR COLEMAN

(Copyright, 1937, by Southern Newspaper Syndicate)

Editor's Note: Arthur Coleman, associate editor of Holland's Magazine, has traveled extensively in the South during the past nine years studying the region's resources, developments and potentialities. He is well known not only for his work in Holland's but for his contributions to many national magazines, periodicals and newspapers.

* * *

Southerners may well regard with bewilderment the rising cost of lumber. Why is the price shooting up? Haven't we always heard about "the vast acreage of Southern pine," the South's "inexhaustible timber resources," and the like?

If we seek facts, not guesses—if we want a real answer to the question of rising lumber costs—it lies in the forests themselves. Specifically, it lies in the way the forests have been handled—or mishandled. And if we press our query far enough, it leads to a graver question: The future of the Southern lumber industry. The answer to the second question depends on what can be done and will be done to correct our grievous mistakes.

Grievous is not too strong a word. The records show that the Southern forests in 1920 contained very nearly 600,000,000,000 board feet of standard saw timber. In 1930 the Southern forests had only 225,000,000,000 to 230,000,000,000 board feet of standing saw timber. In other words, they had been reduced by 69 per cent, even after allowance is made for the annual growth. During the same period, the standing saw timber of the rest of the nation had been reduced by only 12 per cent.

The figures above are seven years old. We can be safe in assuming that the Southern supply of timber has been still further reduced in the intervening years.

* * *

Production Increasing

In 1935 the South produced nearly 9,000,000,000 board feet of lumber, an increase of an even 2,000,000,000 over the preceding year—and building since 1935 clearly indicates a steadily and substantially increasing production for 1936 and 1937. And in addition to this must now be considered the consumption of the omnivorous pulp and paper mills, coming to the South so rapidly as to make a new arrival almost a monthly event.

It is not, therefore, an exaggerated guess to estimate that the cut in Southern forests last year was at least 13,000,000,000 or 14,000,000,000 board feet, and that this year it will be even higher. Indeed, such an estimate may be conservative, for the South in 1900 produced 15,000,000,000 board feet of lumber and in 1910 more than 21,000,000,000. And all this was before the days of the Southern paper mills, a dozen of which, all large units, have lo-

ARTHUR COLEMAN

cated in the South in the last 18 months, giving us a total of 40.

These 40 mills require 2,500,000 tons of pulp, which means 2,500,000 cords or 2,000,000,000 board feet of timber annually. And they are still coming. Indeed, qualified observers of the paper industry predict probably 100 mills for the South, using 8,000,000,000 to 10 billion board feet of timber annually.

With this prospect, it is anything but visionary to see for the near future a demand for 25,000,000,000 board feet of timber a year. The question immediately arises: Can the Southern forests long meet such a demand? And the answer is: Under present conditions, and with present cutting practices, no—not by a jugful.

Look at it from a smaller scale. The average yield of average Southern saw timber—and I mean neither sparse nor experimental tracts—is 200 to 230 board feet of pine, or about 70 board feet of hardwood, per acre per year. It is doubtful if the combined average of both kinds exceeds, if it approaches, 150.

* * *

Not on Sustaining Basis

It is also extremely doubtful if much of this land is handled on a sustained-yield basis, wherein only two-thirds of the yield is cut, leaving the other third for future or replacement growth. To yield 150 board feet on a sustained-yield basis, the land would have to produce a total of 226 board feet per acre per year. It is, of course, barely possible that such an average can be achieved over a great portion of the Southern forests—though not at all probable that it will be.

This means that on the basis of lumber and paper demanded, as to 1935, of approximately 9,500,000,000 or 10,000,000,000 board feet and even granting the achievement of what is propably the unreachable goal of 200 board feet per acre per year throughout the South, we should need—on a sustained-yield basis—70,000,000 to 75,000,000 acres of forest; an area without doubt considerably in excess of present saw timber average. And when we reach a total consumption of, say, 25,000,000,000 board feet annually, we shall require 186,000,000 acres of forest land.

More, this yield will have to be brought about very quickly—say within five years—on much land that is now in poor condition. So we may easily need all of the South's forest land that is at all usable; approximately 200 million acres..

We may say it can be done. But we are at once faced with the very pertinent question of whether it will be done. And here we meet with complications.

* * *

Need Tax Revision

We meet first with the fact that, on the long haul, restoring our forests to anything like the yield they should bear calls for tremendous and patient capital that is willing to spend over long periods for costly development. We meet also with the fact, hostile to sound development, of the most rapidly increasing demand we have experienced probably in our history. And we meet with the sour fact of inequitable taxation—tax rates that take little cognizance of the type of forest land or the status of its growth.

With these we have that most complicating of all factors, the human element. We have greed or stupidity, or both, of the lumberman who either cannot see ahead or simply doesn't care. We have the economic condition of the poor farmers—in whose woodlots grows so large a proportion of the Southern forests—rendering him avid for any amount of ready cash, causing him to sell his timber for as little as 50 cents and $1 per cord to paper mills that do not want and cannot use it at the time, and many of which honestly try to prevent the farmer from cutting his timber, (several of the paper mills are learning to buy or lease their own timberland, while others are contracting for their timber direct with the farmer. Another group, unfortunately, disclaims responsibility, and buys from independent middlemen,)

And we have still with us, of course, the "time-honored" medieval custom of burning off the land every year, with resultant loss of valuable chemicals from the soil and even heavy losses from forest fires.

Before, then, our forests are sufficiently developed, we must have either an enlightened yeomanry and lumber industry, or large and interested capital, or both. And to interest capital, there must be profit.

Which brings us to the question of just what profit is offered by forests developed and protected on a sustained-yield basis.

We can look at two types of forest: The average and the experimental. In East Texas, for an average instance, the net profit on three million acres of pine averages 74 cents per acre, and on one million acres of hardwood, is 33 cents per acre. Compared with this, the Crossett experimental forest in Arkansas reports a gross profit of $1.25 per acre, and estimates place the profit from average sustained-yield forests under good control at from 80 cents to the Crossett figure. These figures, however, are admittedly subject to radically varying factors, both natural and man-made.

* * *

Plan for Improvement

Indeed, conditions are such as to have caused, in the recent past, the statement by federal sources that the outlook for private forestry in the South is anything but bright. There is, however, hope for the preservation of our present good forests and the rescue of considerable other forest land, if lumbermen heed the following recommendations of the federal forest service concerning second-growth stands of loblolly and short-leaf pine.

1. Fire control that will limit the average area burned annually to less than 1 per cent of the total area protected.

2. Thinning for pulpwood in dense stands of old-field and second-growth timber, reserving the best-formed trees properly spaced.

3. Improvement cutting for pulpwood and cordwood in second-growth stands that are wholly or largely unmerchantable for saw-logs, involving the gradual removal, from all merchantable-diameter classes, of trees that will not develop into high-quality material.

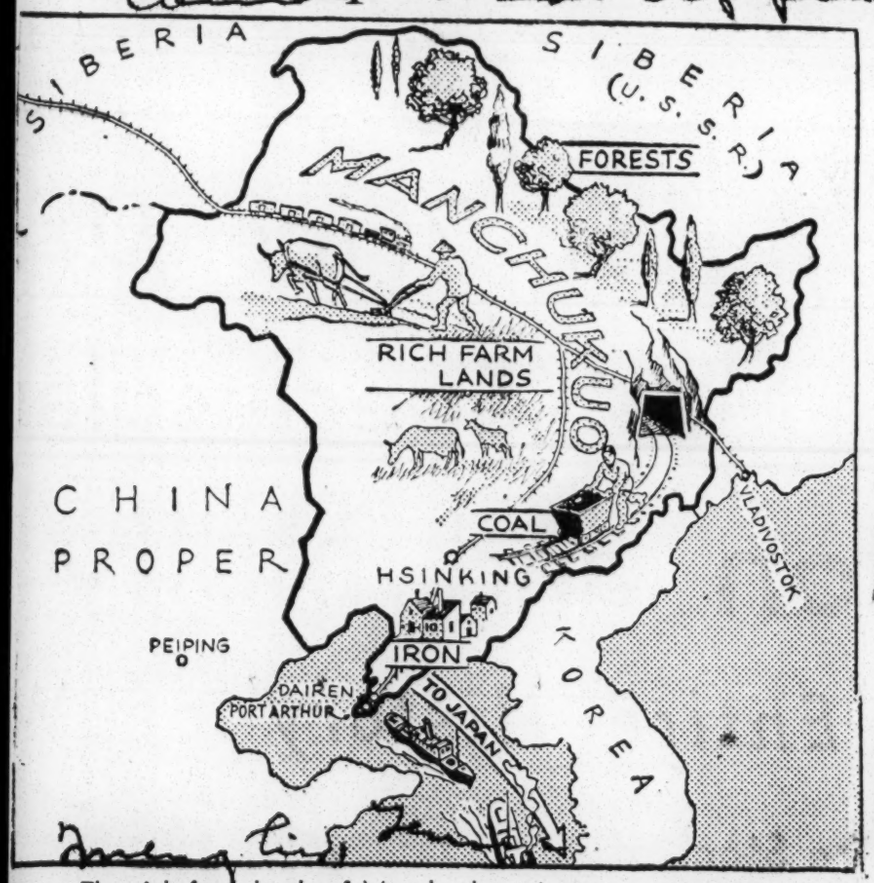
4. Periodic selective cuttings at short intervals (5 to 10 years) in saw-timber stands, with each cutting removing less volume than will be replaced by growth before the next cut. As far as the felling budget will permit, the cut should be limited to trees financially mature because of size, poor condition, or low capacity for growth, in order to shift growth from trees of poor form and vigor to better trees.

5. Integrated untilization to the greatest extent consistent with available markets, providing for the highest and most profitable use of each tree and all its portions. Pulpwood and cordwood should generally be produced from tops of saw-timber trees and from trees below sawlog size, removed as thinnings and improvement cuttings, and not from the portions of trees suitable for saw-logs.

Agriculture-1937
6 Condition of.

General

Where Japan Failed In Attempts To Grow Own Cotton



The rich farm lands of Manchoukuo, Japan's puppet state in Manchuria, may be excellent for growing food crops, but they are unsuitable for cotton production, as tests have shown. The above map shows Manchoukuo, while at the right is a typical farmer of that country.

7-18-37
Commercial appeal

Farm Tenancy Declared 'Great Evil' by Spivey

Present Set-up Hinders Community Development, Senate President Asserts

Telegraph

SWAINSBORO, Ga., July 27 (AP)—Senate President John B. Spivey, in an address here today said farm tenancy, as now practiced, "must be regarded as one of the greatest evils" to community development.

Land owners and tenants, he told associate members of the Coastal Empire Chamber of Commerce in session here, "should abandon and stamp out the prevailing practice of so many of our tenants moving from farm to farm each year."

"It should be the policy of our section to encourage more tenants to become at least small home owners," he said. "Communities with the largest number of small farm owners are regarded as the best communities."

Spivey, one of several speakers during the all-day session, urged local co-operation with federal leadership in the farm question. He added that present freight rates are discriminatory against southern industrial development, however.

"This is permitted under Interstate Commerce Commission regulation," he said, "and if we continue to let the North and East enjoy these unfair advantages, it will be impossible for the South to enjoy and develop her natural resources."

He hailed the gathering of business men and farmers here as "a sure sign of improvement.

"We must arouse all of our people to the necessity of teamwork and deeper appreciation of what we have in Georgia."

Earlier in the day, J. F. Jackson, general agricultural agent of the Central of Georgia railway, said a more profitable system of farming is being worked out in Georgia.

"Cotton is no longer the only thing the farmer produces that he is certain he can turn into cash whenever it is ready to market," he said in a prepared address.

MOVING OF TENANTS ASSAILED BY SPIVEY

Constitution
Atlanta, Ga.

Stability Vital to Community Development, Empire Chamber Is Told.

7-28-37

SWAINSBORO, Ga., July 27.—(AP)—Senate President John B. Spivey, in an address here today, said farm tenancy, as now practiced, "must be regarded as one of the greatest evils," to community development.

Land owners and tenants, he told associate members of the Coastal Empire Chamber of Commerce in session here, "should abandon and stamp out the prevailing practice of so many of our tenants moving from farm to farm each year."

"It should be the policy of our section to encourage more tenants to become at least small home owners," he said, "communities with the largest number of small farm owners are regarded as the best communities."

Spivey, one of several speakers during the all-day session, urged local co-operation with federal leadership in the farm question. He said present freight rates are discriminatory against southern industrial development, however.

"This is permitted under Interstate Commerce Commission regulations," he said, "and if we continue to let the north and east enjoy these unfair advantages, it will be impossible for the south to enjoy and develop her natural resources."

Earlier in the day, J. F. Jackson, general agricultural agent of the Central of Georgia railway, said a more profitable system of farming is being worked out in Georgia.

"Cotton is no longer the only thing the farmer produces that he is certain he can turn into cash whenever it is ready to market," he said.

25,000 TENANTS PASS TESTS IMPOSED BY RA

Commercial Appeal

Large Group Termed Ready To Own Farms

7-25-37

YEAR'S WORK REVIEWED

Memphis, Tenn.

Milo Perkins Takes Alabama Record To Illustrate Program of Federal Agency—Average Worth Now $362

Memphis Tenn.

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON, July 24.—The Resettlement Administration figures that it has 25,000 tenant farmers who have been taught the tenets of cover crops and planned farming and are ready to be set up on farms of their own under the Bankhead plan.

The $10,000,000 in loans which the measure provides during the first year of its operation will buy farms for about 4,000 of these graduates of the RA rural rehabilitation loan program. Another $25,000,000 will be available the second year and $50,000,000 the third, the tenants to be given 40 years in which to repay the loans with three per cent interest.

Year's Experiment Made

For nearly a year, the agency has been experimenting with these prospective landowners. It bought 75-acre farms on which 948 selected tenants took one-year leases with option to buy, and which they have been operating with RA loans and rather mandatory RA advice. They had to agree to take the advice before they got the loans.

Milo Perkins, an assistant administrator of the agency, says the advice and semi-compulsory lessons in farming have been the keynote of the program. But the business of graduating has been purely voluntary, he added. This comes about by paying back the loans before they are due and building enough credit to get operating loans from commercial sources.

Mr. Perkins, a youthful looking, one-time Texas paper manufacturer, said of this group:

"These people have demonstrated they deserve to have the door to ownership opened to them. When they came to us during the depression, they hadn't a dime and no one would lend them a dime. We loaned $135,000,000 to 500,000 of them. The 25,000 have repaid in full."

Alabama Record Given

He pulled out his file on Alabama tenant farmers and went into detail:

RA loaned money to 13,000 tenants in that state. The average net worth of those tenants then was $3.03. Now it is $362. That was his estimate.

"Why, today these people are capitalists," he said. "They are typically capitalistic and conservative in their outlook, too.

"Two or three years ago, they had nothing but a little meal and molasses to eat, dressed their children in fertilizer sacks and plowed cows or steers. To a man in that shape, possession of a mule, wagon and cook stove is capitalism.

"The change in their morale is thrilling. It brings tears to go to one of those homes and see the old man plowing proudly behind his mule, his wife showing off the vegetables she has canned on the 'boojet,' and the little girls going off to school in gingham dresses."

Production Budgeted

The "boojet" is the subsistence production and canning program laid down for each tenant by RA field agents. And this, Mr. Perkins said, was just a part of the work of teaching these lifelong farmers how to farm.

"When you said 'winter cover crops' to them, they didn't know what you were talking about," he said. "To raise feed for their own mule was unheard of. Many of them couldn't begin to raise a garden. And planning a garden to can enough food to last through the winter was a brand new idea.

"They thought only in terms of cotton, the single cash crop."

That was why the agency gave a great deal of advice about farm planning and management and made the taking of this advice a condition of granting loans.

"The program is to grow every necessity on the farm before thinking of making a nickel on cotton or tobacco or any other cash crop, which completely reverses the tenant's traditional ways of working," Mr. Perkins said.

And, he added, for those who have learned these lessons, farm ownership is practicable.

Cotton Mill Problems

There is now running in the newspapers of this State a very thoughtful series of advertisements, bought and paid for by the cotton mills of Alabama.

In them they are trying to get across to their employes, to the cotton farmer, to the merchants, to the consumers and to public officials the very serious problems with which they are confronted.

These problems are burdensome taxation, often unreasonable wage demands and throttling legislation.

It was this triumvirate of problems that helped to bankrupt and dismantle most of the mills in New England, and that contributed to driving the industry to the South where conditions were not so onerous.

Now the Southern cotton textile industry is up against the same triple emergency.

Cotton mills are the largest industry in the State of Alabama. They outrank considerably the steel industry, largely centered at Birmingham and Gadsden. They give employment to 39,000 operatives, not to mention thousands of others who are employed as mechanics, engineers, executives and clerical help.

They buy $43,000,000 worth of cotton a year. They pay out $25,000,000 in wages a year.

If that does not mean very much, let us localize the situation. Through courtesy of one of the local mills' agents, we have obtained these figures on the expenditure of the four largest Huntsville mills during the 12 months ended Sept. 30:

These mills consumed 75,881 bales of cotton—almost twice as many bales as Madison County produced in 1936—that cost them $4,903,921.40.

They pay in wages to approximately 5,000 employes the huge sum of $3,108,447.28.

They contributed in taxes—State, county, city and Federal—exactly $139,379.20.

Their expenditures for unemployment and old age taxes were $73,131.19.

For supplies, and for electric power, they spent $955,031.75.

This makes a grand total for the four mills of $9,178,911.42.

If the gross expenditures of the fifth mill be added to this, the sum will be in the vicinity of $10,000,000 annually.

Now, if the question arose of bringing a factory, or a plant, or a series of industries here that would spend this amount of money in our midst, there would be tremendous excitement, and mass meetings galore.

The farmer would be interested, because it would mean a larger market for his products.

The unemployed would be excited, because it would mean more jobs.

The merchant would be in a dither, because it would mean more money spent in his store.

The public would be aroused, because it would mean more money and more stable realty values.

The public officials would be keenly interested, because it would mean more taxes with which to meet public expenditures and to erect needed public improvements.

Now reverse that picture, and consider that a $10,000,000 industry already is here; that it buys a great deal of the county's largest crop; that it employs and supports directly at least a fourth of the entire county's population; that its weekly payroll is the lifeblood, not only of the city, but of a good deal of the county.

One of the series of advertisements pictures the problem as one of partnership, in which five must participate—the farmer, the mill management, the mill worker, the merchant and the customer.

Each has a share, and only by the cooperation and understanding of all five can the industry be placed again upon a satisfactory basis, and its future not be imperiled.—Huntsville Times.

Agriculture - 1937
Condition of

General

Disaster Is Seen in Federal Regulation of Cotton

Our Trouble Is Viewed Not as Overproduction, but Underconsumption Due to Loss Of Foreign Markets Plus Inept Governmental Meddling

The writer of the following letter, well known as the author of several works on farm problems and economics as related especially to agriculture, is Professor of Rural Economy at Cornell University, a chair which he has held since 1917.

To the Editor of The New York Times:

A bloc of cotton Senators recently drove a strange bargain with the President. The President promised to loan the planters 9 cents a pound on cotton, and to grant in addition a cash subsidy bringing the net price up to 12 cents a pound, provided Congress would pledge itself to pass a law at the next session restoring governmental crop control over cotton.

This was a strange bargain, for two or three reasons. In the first place the Supreme Court held in January, 1936, that Congress does not have the power to control the cotton crop. So this bargain flouts the Supreme Court. In the second place, raising prices by curtailing output is a step toward economic nationalism. Since the South has been exporting her surplus cotton every year for 150 years, economic nationalism is a costly sacrifice for this section to make. The climate and virgin resources of the South were and are the basic economic reasons why this section is the world's natural cotton field. The railroads of the South, the banks, the farms, the little country towns, the cities are all built on cotton. To shift to corn and wheat and dairy—all less productive crops in the South—would mean city bread lines for several million ex-cotton workers. In other words, this bargain asks the South to pay too high a price for economic nationalism.

In the third place, this is a strange bargain because it views domestic surplus as an evil, and it thinks domestic surplus depresses price. Domestic surplus is not an evil and it does not depress price. The price of cotton depends on only two factors, the size of the world crop and the size of the world demand. We control neither of these.

The Record of Five Years

Note the following five typical years with their lack of correlation between world crops alone and price, the demand factor being omitted:

In 1920-21 the world crop decreased 3.2 per cent. Did price go up? No. Price decreased 56.6 per cent.

In 1921-22 world crop decreased 25 per cent; price in this case went up 8.1 per cent.

In 1922-23 world crop increased 22.4 per cent; price went up 44.9 per cent.

In 1923-24 world crop increased 4.4 per cent; price went up 16.9 per cent.

In 1924-25 world crop increased 26.3 per cent; price decreased 20.1 per cent.

If world crop does not determine price, much less does the American cotton crop determine price.

The American bumper cotton crop of all time was, of course, the 18,000,000-bale crop of 1926-27. Industry was prosperous that year, employment was high, demand for cotton was brisk, and so the bottom did not go out of the cotton market. In fact this bumper crop of all time moved to market at an average price of 13.77 cents.

I have been emphasizing demand side of the market. The question naturally arises, Who are the big consumers of American cotton?

Our Big Customers

In the year 1932-33 the four largest foreign buyers, ranked in order, were Germany, 1,947,941 bales; Japan, 1,742,345; Great Britain, 1,559,015; France, 877,868. But demand is in a constant state of flux. The year before, 1931-32, the big four buyers were Japan, 2,322,187; Germany, 1,632,297; Great Britain, 1,371,756; China, 1,090,476. In both these years Italy ranked fifth among buyers. By 1934-35 these countries were turning to Brazil and other countries for cotton formerly taken from the United States. In 1934-35 Great Britain consumed only 941,000 bales of our cotton, France only 535,000, Germany only 376,000.

As illustrating sudden shifts in consumption, the fact may be cited that last year the world consumption of cotton jumped by 3,600,000 bales over the preceding year. The main fact about consumption is this: What we sometimes call "overproduction" is merely underconsumption. For example, when our AAA reported "overproduction" and a "burdensome surplus" in the South in 1933, and caused to be plowed under one-fourth of the whole crop, photographs showed that some of the men plowing under this cotton were dressed in rags and tatters.

In the South there are 40,000,000 people. If these people had enough workmen's overalls for the men and boys, enough sheets and pillow cases and curtains and plain cotton dresses for even a decent standard of living for all the homes of the South, the 1933 cotton crop would have fallen far short of supplying these actual needs. I consider the deliberate sabotage of 4,500,000 bales of cotton in 1933 as a crime, a blunder and a sin.

Our cotton problem is very simple, namely, to sell more cotton, not to grow less cotton. With millions of people in the world nearly naked today, the problem is to grow more cotton and to sell more cotton. And this, in turn, means we must have free access to the foreign market.

An Eight-Year Revolution

Future historians of the Hoover-Roosevelt cotton program will report it as the eight-year cotton revolution The period will deserve this name because of the revolutionary changes in cotton consumption and cotton production.

Eight years ago our share of the world's cotton exports was 63 per cent. Today it is 44 per cent.

During the five years ending in 1929 the world used 8,300,000 bales of American cotton on the average each year.

During the five years ending 1934 this volume was 7,500,000.

During the two years 1935-36 the volume was 6,000,000.

During the year ended July 1, 1937, this volume was 5,000,000. Here is a revolution which has put 1,000,000 people out of work in the South.

Brazil in 1928-29 produced 376,000 bales of cotton. This was the year before the Hoover market restriction. In 1935-36 Brazil produced 1,530,000 bales.

During these past eight years the world has increased its consumption of foreign cotton by 7,000,000 bales; at the same time it has decreased its consumption of American cotton by 2,500,000 bales.

Many farm "relief" bills have been considered and passed by Congress, but no bill has been passed to check or alleviate this revolution.

On the contrary, many things have been done to promote and aggravate it. The cotton South is geared to the markets of Europe and Japan and other distant customers. The need for access to these markets is instant, overwhelming and not admitting of delay.

Yet the eight years of Hoover-Roosevelt farm relief have been a "planned" process of progressive destruction of the foreign markets for American cotton.

Political Remedies

The political remedies given to the cotton South by Presidents Hoover and Roosevelt have been essentially the same, and have cumulatively produced the eight-year revolution which now damns the cotton planter. Any political remedy merely invites the political pressure groups to rush in and grab for immediate advantages.

New Deal schemes have been coming with dizzy rapidity. It is well to pause for a breathing spell and look back over the six steps which have plunged us into this cotton revolution.

1. Hoover's Farm Board of 1929: This governmental agency announced that cotton at 18 cents, the current price, was too cheap, and steps would be taken by Uncle Sam to boost the price. Later the board cornered the cotton market and even imported cotton. The price went down from 18 cents to 5 cents. These men found it easy to corner the market with the United States Treasury back of them, but they found it hard to bury the corpse. The board's promise of cotton prices above 18 cents gave Brazil her start in earnest in cotton. Egypt and all other competitors began to step up their production. This was the start of the revolution. The policy of the board seemed to be, "Keep the cotton away from the consumers."

2. The Hawley-Smoot Tariff of 1930: The old Farm Board started to kill the foreign market. This tariff act did in fact destroy a large portion of our foreign trade. This tariff made it simply impossible for some old customers to buy our cotton at all. Sales to Germany, France, England and Japan showed immediate and drastic slumps. We kept the cotton at home and called it a "surplus," blamed the weather and talked about farm relief and further restrictions on production and marketing.

3. The AAA of 1933: This was a scheme for crop destruction and crop reduction, to eliminate the "surplus." No two economists ever did agree on the definition of "surplus." The philosophy back of the AAA was: Artificial scarcity will bring high prices. I have already shown the naive errors in this theory of domestic surplus and world price. By putting a sales tax of 4½ cents a pound on all cotton domestically consumed, the AAA did greatly curtail consumption and augment the "surplus" which these men were supposed to eliminate. The AAA made the revolution worse.

4. The cotton loan of 1933: Ten cents a pound was loaned "without recourse." The Government acquired 3,000,000 bales of cotton, of which it still has 1,684,491. Under pressure group influence, in 1934 another cotton loan was made, this time at 12 cents. By Aug. 1, 1935, the Government was carrying 6,200,000 bales of cotton—a holding twice as great as that of the Farm Board in the days of its corner. In 1935 loans were made at 10 cents. This "Government cotton" has disturbed and disrupted the domestic market for four years.

Bankhead Act a Factor

5. The Bankhead Act of 1934: This made the cotton curtailment compulsory where it had been voluntary before. The Bankhead act merely made the revolution worse.

6. The Loan Subsidy Act of August, 1937: This act has already been described. It provides two political remedies, both aggravating the present revolution in cotton: (a) It pegs the price, or seeks to peg the price, at 9 cents by means of loans of Federal funds, as long as Federal funds hold out; (b) it provides for a subsidy in cash to elevate the farmer's cash receipts to 12 cents a pound. The sum of $150,000,000 is provided as a starter toward this subsidy. The aim of this act is subsidy rather than sale.

We come now to our conclusions. Our "farm relief" for cotton has been essentially the same as the schemes in British rubber, Japanese silk, Cuban sugar and Brazil coffee—schemes to enhance price by curtailing output. These schemes all miserably failed, harming the farmers grievously in the end.

In cotton, our "surplus," so far as we have a real surplus, is a man-made surplus. We can sell this surplus. Or we can subsidize the surplus, thus postponing the day of reckoning. Which do we want, sale or subsidy?

In 1936 the world consumed more cotton than it produced. We have no surplus. We have only underconsumption lack of markets.

Barriers to Trade

There are markets—in Europe, Asia, South America, Canada—if we reopen these markets. To reopen these markets we must remove the trade barriers and

permit once more the Southern planter to sell his product where, when and as he pleases.

The Southern planter saw market restriction begin in 1929, with cotton at 18 cents. After eight years of restriction he now sees cotton at 9 cents.

He has seen five years of crop restriction, and at the end of these five years the world has the largest cotton crop of all time.

He has seen seven years of prohibitive tariff barriers. At the end of these years of market restriction, tariff restriction and production restriction he sees his market almost destroyed.

With five more years of such restrictions, the Southern planter will find himself in the position of the American Indian—a ward of the Federal Government.

JAMES E. BOYLE.

Cornell University, Aug. 26, 1937.

OUR COTTON REVOLUTION

We print on this page today a letter from Professor Boyle of Cornell describing what he calls our "cotton revolution." As a result of the "strange bargain" entered into between a bloc of cotton Senators and the President, this country is once more to embark upon a scheme of loans, subsidies and restriction. Though all this is to be done in the belief that it will help the cotton farmer, Professor Boyle is convinced that if the policy is persisted in it can only mean his ruin. He reviews the history of governmental intervention in the last eight years and summarizes its results. During these eight years the world has increased its consumption of foreign cotton by 7,000,000 bales, while at the same time it has decreased its consumption of American cotton by 2,500,000 bales. The Southern planter saw market restriction begin in 1929, with cotton at 18 cents; after eight years of restriction he now sees cotton at 9 cents. He has seen five years of crop restriction, and at the end of these five years the world has the largest cotton crop of all time.

The loan and restriction policy is mainly responsible for this result. There is every reason to believe that a revival of that policy must lead only to a further sacrifice of American to foreign cotton. Yet Congress is committed to that revival.

Dixie Thrills to Cries of 'First Bale'; It's Cotton-Picking Time in Southland

By The Associated Press.

ATLANTA, Aug. 28.—"First bale" cries are sounding in Dixie.

That is the sign that cotton-picking time has arrived.

This week thousands of men, women and children, both white and Negro, bent their backs in fields along the Cotton Belt's lower rim. Swift fingers pulled the white, fluffy lint which is expected to total more than 15,000,000 bales. It will be October before all the crop is picked.

Farmers who plant their cotton early form the backbone of the mythical "first-bale" brigade. Each year they make news in their section by getting their cotton ginned and ready for market while others are waiting for the green bolls to burst. In many places the first bale is auctioned for premium prices.

Last year's crop of less than 14,800,000 bales brought more than $1,000,000,000, the best since 1929. What the new crop will bring is far from certain, but of more immediate concern to growers in many sections of the South today is the problem of labor for the harvest.

Nearly 300 Mexican workers were imported from Texas into the Arkansas section. The Southern Tenant Farmers Union, which has many wage hand members, immediately protested.

In Alabama, re-employment offices concentrated on providing pickers. Along the Mississippi delta region, planters prepared to stand day and night vigil over their "hired help" if necessary to prevent depredations by rival growers.

In some sections planters are paying $1 for 100 pounds, but the average is less than 50 cents. A fast experienced picker can pick 400 pounds of cotton a day. Most pickers, however, consider that they are doing well if they gather 200 pounds.

Science hails mechanical cotton pickers. But machines are not in general use. The sun-up to sun-down job in the long rows is still a back-straining task.

Generally speaking, cotton picking in the South has made only one major advance since the war between the States. They used to drag along baskets; now they toss the staple into a long sack slung over a shoulder.

Revolt In Solid South Against Roosevelt

By NATHAN ROBERTSON

WASHINGTON, Aug. 29.— (AP) — Analysis of the Senate lineup on recent issues showed today that the bulk of opposition to Roosevelt policies came from New England, the solid South, and the Pacific Coast.

The Chief Executive received his strongest support from the western mountain States, the Middle West and part of the industrial East.

The analysis indicated that one of two propositions is true: New England is decidedly against recent Roosevelt policies; the Pacific States are about evenly divided on them, and the South is badly split by them; or else Democratic Chairman James A. Farley was right when he said those voting against administration measures did not represent their constituents.

The position of senators on four major issues of the past session was used as a basis for the analysis. The issues were the Roosevelt court bill, the wage-hour bill, the Wagner low cost housing bill, and the move to curtail the administration's relief spending.

Three of these issues reached a show-down in Senate votes. On the court bill, only those senators who had publicly declared for or against the measure were counted.

For the purposes of the analysis is the nation was divided into seven sections: New England States; industrial east including Mayland and West Virginia; solid South, including Kentucky and Tennessee; the new South Texas and Oklahoma; Middle West from Ohio to the Dakotas; Mountain States, including the Southwest; and the three Pacific Coast States.

New England, with its senatorial representation divided evenly between Republicans and Democrats, was the only area voting against the New Deal on the whole. Although it favored the wage-hour bill, this fact was overshadowed by its opposition to Roosevelt policy on the three other issues.

The Pacific States, with their senatorial representation also equally divided between the parties, lined up up evenly on the four Roosevelt policies.

The South, despite its solid Democratic representation, voted only 41 to 30 for Roosevelt policies as a whole, showing what a serious revolt had developed in that section against the wage-hour and other administration measures.

All other sections voted more than two to one for the program as a whole.

The House did not have show-down votes on most of these issues.

The South stayed in the Roosevelt column except on relief. That issue, presented in an amendment to the relief bill to require local communities to share the cost, found 10 Southern senators voting for the restriction and only nine opposing it.

New England was almost solidly against the court bill, but in favor of the wage-hour measure, and evenly divided on the housing bill.

Midwest For New Deal

The Middle West and Mountain States voted unanimously for the housing bill, but were slightly against the court bill on the basis of publicly declared senators.

Here is the tabulation by sections with the total for and against Roosevelt policies on the four issues first and the break-down on the various issues following:

New England: 15-23; court, 1-3; wage-hour, 6-4; housing, 5-5; relief 3-6.

Industrial East: 27-14; court, 4-6; wage-hour, 8-2; housing, 9-1; relief 6-5.

Old South: 41-30; court, 10-5; wage-hour, 11-8; housing, 11-7; relief, 9-10.

Texas and Oklahoma: 9-3; court, 2-1; wage-hour, 2-1; housing, 3-0; relief, 2-1.

Middle West: 59-24; court, 9-10; wage-hour, 13-8; housing, 21-0; relief, 16-6.

Mountain States: 40-12; court, 5-6; wage-hour, 13-2; housing, 12-0; relief, 10-4.

Pacific States: 11-11; court, 2-3; wage-hour, 3-3; housing, 3-3; relief 3-2.

If You Kill a Thousand-Dollar Horse to Win a Thousand-Dollar Race, All You Get Is the Fun

By ROBERT QUILLEN.

The slaves who worked in the cotton fields of the south provided two fortunes—one for the New England shipowner who brought them from Africa, and one for the planter who owned them.

But they got nothing for their labor except food and shelter, and thus they established a precedent and a standard. Cotton remains a slave crop. If one man makes money out of it, others must take less than a living.

Under average conditions, only a super-man, working without help, could plant, tend and pick ten bales of cotton. And his reward for such a crop this year would be about $450, which may support a family but doesn't provide many luxuries. If a landlord takes half, it doesn't provide many necessities.

Cotton field hands and tenants who are "furnished" are issued at regular intervals the minimum quantities of fat pork, corn meal and molasses required to keep them going. They get fat pork instead of beef because a little of it satisfies their meat hunger. They would eat too much beef.

Several million people who spend their lives producing cotton are never able to buy enough food of the right kind or afford the kind of shelter a rich farmer provides for his horses.

Is it the fault of rich and wicked landlords? It is not. If all of the "capitalists" engaged in the production and processing of cotton should determine to pay their helpers $5 a day, they would be bankrupt within a year.

Cotton simply doesn't bring money enough to provide good wages. And it still remains true that you can't get blood out of a turnip.

Cotton has kept the south poor for generations, and the whole country suffers because of it. Manufacturers can't sell much to a poor man. And the section that needs most relief is the heaviest drain on taxpayers.

Cotton has always been a curse to those who produce it, and it threatens to become a much greater one. Other lands have learned to grow it and now produce more than we do. And they are increasing their acreage every year.

Under present conditions, the south must compete with paupers. It must compete with India, where the average annual income of an adult worker is $35, and soon it must compete with China. And you can't survive in competition unless you meet the competitor's price.

There doesn't seem to be much choice in the future. We can [illegible] world market and preserve the American market for [illegible] an crop, or we can let the world market set the price [illegible] a $500,000,000 crop produced by ragged and hopeless starvclings.

(Copyright, 1937, for The Constitution.)

Agriculture – 1937
6
Condition of.

General

Production Limits Spell Disaster

When Chairman Sumners of the house judiciary committee flatly announced, while the court-packing bill was under discussion, that no such bill would be reported from his committee, he broke the back of that movement to destroy the independence of the judiciary, and the funeral obsequies took place in the senate shortly after.

"Cotton Ed" Smith of South Carolina, chairman of the senate agriculture committee, discussing the question of early consideration of farm control legislation, also says flatly, "No bill will be reported out until January; let that be understood, once for all."

Continuing, he said he knew what was behind "all this commotion for a special session" and wondered just how long the American people are going to stand for it.

So that's that.

Vigorously attacking the entire administration program of restriction in business and industry, Peter Molyneaux, writing in the Texas Weekly, insists that the whole project is "a crazy policy which consists merely in reducing the production of American cotton"—and incidentally other commodities—"as rapidly as the foreign market is destroyed, without doing anything to stop the process of destruction."

He recalls that several days ago the following item came over the market wire from Washington:

> President Roosevelt feels that the present prospect for a large cotton crop illustrates the need of new economic controls immediately. He has been informed that the prospect is for a harvest of 14,500,000 bales this season and that this figure is about probable consumption. He is understood to feel that such a crop, with the possibility of another equally large one next year, might result in 8-cent cotton again. Similar dangers exist with respect to other crops, he believes.

Mr. Molyneaux asks why should a crop in excess of 14 million bales bring up a threat of 8-cent cotton. Twenty-four years ago, in 1913, we sold a crop of more than 14 million bales at better than 12 cents a pound—and incidentally it was 12 cents of the old gold parity. Why can't we do it today? Is the world consuming less cotton than it did in 1913?

On the contrary, as the editor of the Texas Weekly points out, the world is consuming more cotton. In 1913 world consumption of cotton of all kinds was 22,200,000 bales, whereas present world consumption is about 30 million bales.

In other words, the world is consuming 7,800,000 bales more of cotton a year now than then. And yet we are told that another American crop in excess of 14 million bales will mean disaster!

Answering the question as to why this should be so he says that whereas, out of a total consumption of 16,600,000 bales outside of the United States in 1913-14 more than 8,400,000 bales were American cotton; during the past 12 months, out of a consumption of about 22 million bales outside of the United States only about 5 million bales were American cotton.

In 1925 we sold a crop of more than 16 million bales for more than 18 cents a pound. In 1928, we sold 14,500,000 bales at 18 cents a pound, and in 1929 we sold a crop of 14,800,000 bales for more than 16 cents a pound.

And yet today a crop in excess of 14 million bales raises visions of 8-cent cotton.

Mr. Molyneaux says he does not question the accuracy of the estimate. As a matter of fact, he is certain that if present policies are continued the time is not far distant when a crop of more than 12 million bales will mean 8-cent or even 5-cent cotton.

In the face of such a situation he asks if there is nothing to be done but just to go on reducing production by means of "new economic control" in keeping with the disappearing market.

As we have seen, there is a reduction in the amount of American cotton consumed abroad at the very time when more cotton from all sources is being consumed than at any time in 30 years. Mr. Molyneaux says the cause of this situation is not far to seek. It is the high tariff system of the United States.

That system makes it to the interest of most countries to buy as little as possible of anything from the United States, and certainly as little as possible of anything that can be obtained elsewhere. It has progressively destroyed the foreign market for American cotton ever since the enactment of the Hawley-Smoot act of 1930. This was already clear in 1932 when the Democratic convention, in its platform, described the effect of that act so accurately by declaring that it had "destroyed international trade, robbed the American farmer of his foreign markets and increased his cost of production."

During four years of Democratic control of both houses of congress the administration has allowed the Hawley-Smoot tariff to continue its destruction of foreign markets for American farm products. Through its effect the consumption of American cotton is reduced to the lowest point, in time of peace, in more than 30 years. There have been a few reductions through reciprocal agreements with certain countries, but only one of these has ever been an important consumer of American cotton.

So far from relieving the situation, Mr. Molyneaux says, the Democratic majority in congress, at the instance of a Democratic president, is preparing to place new restrictions on commerce under the guise of regulating wages and hours in industry. The Black-Connery bill would simply reinforce and supplement the Hawley-Smoot act "in the inexorable process of destroying the foreign markets for American cotton." We shall begin to have years in which less than five million bales are consumed abroad and then four million bales until it becomes negligible. "Then," exclaims Mr. Molyneaux, "God help the people of the cotton-growing regions of the South!"

These are cold facts which cannot be obscured even by all the complicated schemes for regimentation hatched in the dreamy mind of Henry Wallace. It ought to be apparent, even to the most limited intelligence, that if the world today is consuming more cotton than ever before, and that a crop of 16 million bales has brought 18 cents a pound, there should be no reason to fear 8-cent or 10-cent or 12-cent cotton with a crop of more than 14 million bales unless something were radically wrong for which crop control is not the remedy.

Crop control will be the subject of future deliberation, but the Black-Connery bill is at our door. It is a restriction on production, as an alleged protection against low wages, just as the Hawley-Smooth tariff act is to protect us from "cheap foreign labor." Both are fatally restrictive.

A FOREIGNER LOOKS AT THE SOUTH

Last Summer a group of Americans and English toured the cotton South, studying farming conditions and racial problems. One of the members of the group was Sir John Harris, who has returned to England and written of his trip in The Manchester Guardian.

Sir John Harris journeyed nearly 2,000 miles "through the cotton fields of the South." He spent some time in Alabama and visited many farm houses in Montgomery County.

The picture which is presented to English readers of conditions in this part of the country is far from a pretty one, though the story is told sympathetically. All Southerners should know something of what Sir John wrote, for, whether his conclusions are true or not, they are significant.

"In the Carolinas and Kentucky," writes our English visitor, "the boll had only just begun to open, but farther south, in Alabama, the pickers were everywhere busy filling with extraordinary zest the landlords' sacks, whilst all along the roadway of Alabama our car jostled with lorries laden with freshly picked cotton and the air was heavily scented with the warm odor of newly ginned seed."

Then follows a particularly dismal description:

"A bright, sunny day in Alabama, with cotton fields showing white and gay and Negro pickers laughing and singing at their work, is a joyous picture, but it is not a true picture of the condition of 8,000,000 people. To quote one commission, it is 'a miserable panorama of unpainted shacks, rain-gullied fields, straggling fences, rattletrap Fords, dirt, poverty, drudgery, monotony.' For my part I have never seen such poverty and squalor, no, not even in Central Africa."

Sir John Harris may or may not be a good observer. That is beside the point.

Most persons realize that conditions on the Southern farm are far from perfect. If we are to correct the picture that many foreigners have of the agricultural South continued efforts must be made to rid the South of the curse of tenancy, which, with illiteracy, forms the basis of most farm evils.

Texan Analyzes Cotton Situation

The Texas Weekly, published in Dallas with Peter Molyneaux as editor and publisher, presents a keen analysis of the present situation in the world cotton market and of the causes for the cry "too much cotton," which has followed the government estimate of more than 15,500,000 bales as the American crop this year.

The editorial says, in part:

"Too much cotton is again the cry in the land. Of course, it is rather early to begin any sure-thing betting on how much cotton there will be this year, because nobody knows how the weather in Texas and Oklahoma is going to behave during the rest of August. But even with the most favorable weather there clearly is no "danger" that the crop of American cotton will be in excess of 15,000,000 bales. This would be 500,000 bales less than the average annual world consumption of American cotton during the three years ending July 31st, 1929. And average annual world consumption of all kinds of cotton during the past year. Yet today the prospect of a crop of 15,000,000 bales raises the frantic cry of "too much cotton." And the "farm leaders" and the gentlemen in congress from cotton-growing states are behaving as usual in such circumstances.

CONGRESS PROPOSALS.

"A group of congressmen from cotton-producing states, after getting word from the White House that there would be no cotton loans until congress enacted new crop-control legislation, decided to ask for loans on a basis of 10 cents a pound and a government bounty to the farmers sufficient to make the average price 12 cents. This group threatened to block the Black-Connery so-called "wages and hours" bill unless its demands were met. Whereupon a group in the senate, headed by Senator Black, of Alabama, countered with a proposal that the President call a special session of congress in the fall to enact a crop-control measure. In response to this, the first report was that the President would call a special session if the house committee on agriculture has a farm bill ready for congress to consider by that time. Later it was said the President saw no need of such a session.

"The committee on agriculture, it should be explained, has been delayed in the preparation of such a bill because of a failure of various farm groups and leaders to agree on its provisions. Chairman Marvin Jones, of the committee, announces that it is working faithfully on such a measure and should have it ready in time to be passed before next plantings. So the outlook now is that we shall not have a special farm session in the fall, and it is likely that in the meantime some kind of a price-pegging loan will be provided for. And, of course, the gentlemen of the lower house will not block the Black-Connery bill. That bill will be passed, no doubt, in due course. But nothing apparently will be done to deal directly with the situation which makes an American crop of 15,000,000 bales "too much cotton" at a time when the world is consuming about 30,000,000 bales of cotton, as compared with an average of 25,650,000 bales a year during the three years ending with 1929.

FRUITLESS INVESTIGATION

"Two and a half years ago the senate committee on agriculture made an "investigation" to determine why American cotton was being shut out of foreign markets, but nothing in the way of legislation resulted from it. The answer to that question had already been given clearly in the Democratic platform of 1932. That platform declared that the "prohibitive rates" of the Hawley-Smoot Tariff bill had "destroyed international trade" and "robbed the American farmer of his foreign markets and increased his cost of production.

"Since then the world has been abandoning the use of American cotton as rapidly as other sources of supply could be developed. Faced with the effects of this process, the Democrats of congress, completely in control of both houses and with a Democrat in the White House, have seemed willing to do anything except tackle the job of bringing down 'the prohibitive rates' of the Hawley-Smoot Tariff Act, which, according to the 1932 Democratic platform, 'destroyed international trade' and 'robbed the farmer of his foreign markets.' This process is continuing inexorably, and the foreign market for American cotton continues to decline in spite of record-breaking consumption of cotton throughout the world.

AFFECTING WHOLE WORLD

"The tariff policy of the United States is affecting many other things besides cotton, of course. As a matter of fact, it is affecting the whole economic life of the American people, and as part of the economic warfare which has disturbed the world since the World War it is affecting the people of many other countries. It is our opinion that the attempt of a great creditor nation like the United States to maintain such a system is one of the most disturbing factors in the world situation day. And we are certain that the following of such a policy during the post-war years, including the adoption of such makeshifts as huge imports of gold and huge exports of capital by which its effects were avoided until 1929, was the fundamental cause of the depression. If we continue this policy it is going to result ultimately in the establishment in the United States of a governmental and economic system of rigid regulation and regimentation of every division of the daily life of the people. But the immediate thing that is glaringly apparent is that it is destroying the cotton-growing industry in the United States.

"The tariff issue, in our opinion, is the key to the whole political situation. And all of the dangers which are threatening free enterprise and democracy in this country will continue to be menacing until the tariff issue is met squarely. This country cannot be generally prosperous again on a sound basis and resume orderly progress so long as its policies are predominantly those of economic nationalism.

"So long as those policies predominate, we shall have all kinds of unsound measures designed to make the country prosperous and promote the 'abundant life.' And we shall continue to restrict the freedom of the citizen in all kinds of directions and to invade what has hitherto been regarded as his constitutional rights, on the ground that the welfare of the underprivileged requires such courses and therefore justifies them. The surest way to insure a continuance of the present tendencies is to insist on a continued maintenance of a sky-high tariff wall around the country. And some of the people who are yelling the loudest against the New Deal are the most stubborn advocates of policies which make such things as the New Deal inevitable. That is why the old line Republicans and their industrial supporters are absolutely impotent to check the present tendencies. And any attempt to check them any political movement that is inaugurated to check them, which does not recognize the fundamental place of the tariff issue in the picture, will be quite as impotent."

TENANTS TOLD TO WAR AGAINST EXPLOITATION

250 S. T. F. U. Members Hear WPA Administrator Laud Movement

Farm tenancy is a direct linea descendant of slavery, and outside capital is moving industry into the South to exploit tenant farmers' unskilled sons as cheap labor, Aubrey Williams, deputy WPA administrator, told the Southern Tenant Farmers' Union yesterday, in a talk markedly sympathetic with its efforts to better farmers' condition in the South.

More than 250 S. T. F. U. members, the large majority negroes, massed at the Labor Temple to hear Mr. Williams, voiced approval of his utterances with mournful "Amens" and "So 'tis, brother," and proclaimed their climactic peace of soul when he finished with a rousing and roaring hymn of thanksgiving. When the song ended they crowded on the platform to shake his hand and only the promise of a group picture of the S. T. F. U. delegates outside the building was alluring enough to allow Mr. Williams to escape further hand wringing from his smiling admirers.

Safeguard of Interests

The S. T. F. U., Mr. Williams sees as an attempt to safeguard the interests of a large segment of the South "that is the most insecure of any of our National groups."

"We all know of the efforts made to thwart organization of tenants and share croppers," Mr. Williams said. "The testimony of unimpeachable witnesses on this point is too strong. Your meeting here today after three years of struggle is evidence of your courage and determination and belief in the justice of your cause.

Mr. Williams held no hope for improvement of Southern farmers' condition except through National agriculture reconstruction and revitalization of our foreign trade. Agricultural depression began long before 1929, he said. Devitalized soil, soil erosion, devotion to a single crop and land speculation were causes of the South's agricultural depression, he said.

Linked With Slavery

"A map recently prepared by the WPA shows a remarkable coincidence of the areas of heavy farm tenancy in 1930 with the areas of heavy slavery holding in 1860," he said. "The handicaps of the tenant were not born of the depression, but were gradually evolved of a long-standing economic system and a firmly established pattern of social conditions and customs. Such a condition will not be easily changed. I say this merely to encourage you not to weary in the face of obstacles and disappointments. You should be warned these obstacles will appear and these disappointments will be met."

Southern farms are producing more than their share of the natural increase in population which directly affects the labor market Mr. Williams pointed out. For every available farm there are several maturing farm boys. These boys in depression compete for farm jobs in a glutted labor market, or move to the city to compete with industrial labor at a low wage level.

Differential wages between the South and other sections is greatest in jobs which these unskilled boys can fill, Mr. Williams said. It is this group of boys which outside capital plans to exploit in this section, according to Mr. Williams.

"Free to Exploit"

"Owing to the tenant farmers lack of control of capital, lack of education and experience, his poor bargaining position, and lack of prestige and political power, the Southern farm worker is particularly vulnerable to exploitation unless protected by a strong public sentiment and social legislation,' Mr. Williams said. "It is the function of labor organization and Governmental regulation to provide this protection.

"I wish today we had a wider audience of people actively interested in raising the standard of living of the Southern farm worker. For those outside the South, I would quote Booker Washington's famous aphorism, 'You cannot hold a man in a ditch without staying there with him. The economy of the Nation cannot hold so great a proportion of its population in the ditch of depressed agriculture without staying there with it."

Election of officers to the District United Cannery, Agricultural, Packing and Allied Workers of America and adopting resolutions, one of them denying contemplated demonstrations when Secretary Wallace arrives here Friday, yesterday concluded the three-day meeting of the S. T. F. U.

Brands Report

The resolution condemned as "false" a story by George Morris correspondent of The Commercial Appeal's Washington Bureau, in Sunday morning's edition, that the S. T. F. U. was rumored as planning a demonstration of protest against existing farm conditions when Secretary Wallace comes here Friday.

The Wallace visit is welcomed by the S. T. F. U. as an opportunity to study and see the "unjustifiable economic conditions facing the cotton field workers, tenants and sharecroppers," the resolution said. Howard Kester, of the union's executive board, introduced the resolution.

District officers elected were J. R. Butler, president; H. L. Mitchell, secretary; E. B. McKinney, vice president, and Leon Turner of Altheimer, Ark., assistant secretary. All officers but Mr. Turner held the same offices in the S. T. F. U.

The S. T. F. U. voted affiliation with the C. I. O. and set minimum cotton picking wages at $1 per hundred pounds during the meeting.

Agriculture-1937
Condition of.

Georgia.
6

Pine Trees Rival Cotton

In some parts of Georgia the pine tree is called the most valuable of all the state's assets, and if woods burning can be stopped it will become vastly more valuable. This claim has often been made in Dodge county, where people believe it so much they are buying farms and deliberately planting the entire acreage in slash pines.

Most of the state's pine lands have been cut over, and the paper mills that have transferred about a hundred million dollars of industrial investments to the South and Southeast are definitely concerned about the future of the pine tree. Some are buying up tracts of land and replanting pines or thinning them and cultivating them for the best results, hoping to be able to fall back on them if the individual farmers and landowners destroy their pines or cut them entirely off the lands. The owners of woods have not been careful of the future. When the sawmills were cutting the wonderful heart pine, or original growth, as it is called, no effort was made to save seedlings, and the lands were supposed to be valueless after the sawmill moved away, but now that land is growing some of the best crops and livestock to be found in the state.

Turpentine farming has been found more profitable in recent years than the sawmill timber was in the past, and now the paper manufacturers say if the landowners will cut their growing timber to a proper stand all that is left on the land will improve and a nice profit will come out of that to be sold off. The prevailing price offered at the mills is $4.50 a cord.

The Georgia farmer has been fighting the pine tree almost as ruthlessly as he has the grasses, and it has often been said if the grasses and the pines are encouraged instead of being destroyed the farmer will begin to realize sources of income that will mean more to him in net results than anything else he has attempted.

Macon, Ga., News
December 1, 1937

NEGROES STUDYING SOIL PROBLEMS

Negro farmers from Bibb, Twiggs, and Monroe counties, were organized into a visiting group sometime ago by County Agent S. H. Lee and Home Demonstration Agent Mamye L. Wesley and went over into Dadeville, Alabama, to visit a soil conservation project. At their destination they were met by others from Alabama, and later they were guests of the Senator Morrill Club of the Tuskegee Institute. They were invited to return next year to inspect a completed model community, where the use of submarginal lands will be demonstrated. Agent Lee said the tour was a direct result of the agents' summer school. The Georgia visitors say they learned much that will be valuable to them in their effort to be better farmers and to build up the farms on which they work, either as tenants or landlords.

In some of the recent reports on agricultural conditions in America it was stated that all but the Negro farmers have wisely learned to make at home their own feed and food. This observation about the Negroes, however, does not properly apply to those Negro farmers who are working under the guidance of County Agent Lee and his home demonstration agent.

Agriculture - 1937
Condition of.

Georgia.

Lumpkin, Ga., Journal
February 12, 1937

Colored Farmers Of Stewart County Called For Meeting Saturday

Prof. H. E. Hall, teacher of Vocational Agriculture, in the Lumpkin High and Industrial School (Colored) at Lumpkin has issued a call to the colored farmers of Stewart County, to meet him at the Stewart County Court House in Lumpkin tomorrow (Saturday) morning at ten o'clock on matters of vital importance. Mr. Roland Turner, County Agent of Stewart County, and Prof T. E. Ritchie, Superintendent of the Richland Schools, and Teacher of Vocational Agriculture, will be present to make talks at this meeting. All colored farmers throughout Stewart County are invited and urged to attend the meeting at the Court House in Lumpkin tomorrow morning. Prof. Halls invitation to the colored Farmers is as follows.

To The Colored Farmers of Stewart County:

You are requested to be present at the Stewart County Court House, Lumpkin, Georgia, Saturday morning at 10 o'clock A. M. Business of vital importance. Our new County agent, Mr. Turner will be on hand to meet you, also Professor T. E. Ritchie, Superintendent, and teacher of Vocational Agriculture, Richland High School (White), Richland, Georgia. T. E. HALL,

Teached of Vocational Agriculture, Lumpkin High and Industrial School, Lumpkin, Georgia.

Americus, Ga., Recorder
February 1, 1937

NEGRO FARM'RS PLAN PROGRAM

250 Arrange Plans For 1937

Two hundred and fifty five Negro farmers meet this week at the new high school on North Lee street in Americus for the purpose of making 1937 farm plans. Farmers from 32 communities of Sumter county were represented at this meeting. These farmers unanimously accepted the plan offered by the Federal Administration relative to farm operations for this year. Mr. J. K. Luck was present, and gave an interesting talk, outlining the soil conservation program for 1937. He urged all Negro farmers to attend the various soil conservation meetings being held for colored and white farmers in a number of local communities of Sumter county. P. H. Stone, state agent directing negro extension service addressed the meeting, reviewing farm operations in Georgia among negroes, and presented the agricultural outlook for 1937. Alexander Hurse, state 4-H club agent for negroes told about progress being made by 10,157 boys of Georgia. In connection with the livestock movement among 4-H boys and girls of the state, the three pure bred Black Aberdeen Angus bulls, two Angus heifers and one purebred Hereford steer awarded to negro boys of Sumter county were high points in Hurse's address. Miss Camilla Weems, assistant state agent of negro extension service, was also a speaker during this farmers' conference. She gave a heart to heart talk to the farm men present relative improving home life and better treatment of their wives in developing more happiness in their homes. They were urged to improve personal cleanliness and dress that better health and moral standards might prevail.

Other high points during the meeting were phases of the program featuring educational progress and needs among negro farmers. In this connection, Prof. E. J. Granberry, principal of the new negro high school offered his school building as the farmers headquarters, and told of the urgent need for educational improvement among negroes in rural districts. Prof. Royal B. Dunham, head of the industrial arts department of Staley High School, where the conference was being held, gave an interesting talk, and presented one of his rural boys who has unusual ability in carpentry. A beautiful lawn chair this boy made was presented. Prof. Dunham stated that after furnishing this boy a blue print showing the chair construction, with but very little coaching thereafter, the excellent lawn chair was the result, which goes to show, the rural boy only needs a chance. Prof. E. L. Bridges, County Superintendent was one of the main speakers during the farmers' conference. He stressed the great need of education among negroes, and told of the strenuous efforts being made to improve educational conditions among negro farmers of Sumter county. He mentioned the two new PWA rural schools for negroes just completed, and the one to be erected in Leslie community. He congratulated the negroes of Americus and Sumter county for the $46,000 high school structure just completed.

Forming a decorative background for the stage of the new high school building where the meeting was held, was an exhibition by club women and girls of dresses, bed spreads, pillows, pillow cases, scarfs, rugs, canned and fresh vegetables. Plains display of variety of beautiful bed spreads was the most outstanding exhibit forming the background of the stage. The crocheted spread made by Almeta Tatum, a club woman of Plains, caused much comment by those attending the meeting. The conference was held under the supervision of E. Stallworth, County agricultural agent and Thelma Banks, county home demonstration agent.

By EUGENE ANDERSON

NEGROES MAY BE RESPECTED

When the government gave Mr. O. Pope the job of organizing a re-settlement tract of land for Negro farmers, Mr. Pope went into Macon county to see what he could learn about their condition. He is familiar with Southern farming conditions, because he has grown up in the South and he knows the people and systems.

"I found that the Negro farmers who had worked, and accumulated, and had taken care of their property, were highly respected, and they were given credit. The bankers are anxious to hold their accounts, and such Negroes seem to be treated with every consideration."

Arthur Raper, in his book called "Preface to Peasantry", says he made a six year study of the share-croppers', the tenants', and the landowners' situation in Macon and Greene counties in Georgia; that he selected these counties because they were typical of Black Belt conditions throughout the South. He pictures a prejudice against the Negro as a landowner.

Mr. Pope has found none of that prejudice. He has purchased, in the name of the government, practically eleven hundred acres of the best soil he could find in Macon county, and no county in the Southeast has a better soil. A share-cropper is a man who can furnish nothing but the labor, and he prefers to give his labor for a part of the crop rather than for fixed wages. If prices are good and the crops yield well, he may profit greatly by taking a chance with the landlord. Sometimes he makes enough to buy and feed one or more mules, and to feed himself and his family in the subsequent year. In that event he rents the land he wants to cultivate, and in two or three years under this system he may have established enough credit to buy some land or he may have made enough to pay cash for a small farm.

Mr. Pope thinks the Negro receives plenty of encouragement to get ahead. Mr. Raper, who is teacher of sociology in a Georgia college, thinks the cards are stacked against the Negro. The experiment in re-settlement near Montezuma will, therefore, be watched with a great deal of interest.

Mr. Pope says a similar experiment near the Booker Washington school at Tuskegee is bringing highly satisfactory results. It is supervised by a Negro graduate of Tuskegee. When Booker Washington first undertook his school project at Tuskegee he said the main problem was to make the Negro want a better living. He found Negroes with large sums of money living in the crudest houses with a rock for a doorstep. He devoted himself and his assistants to being missionaires to try to raise the ideals of his people.

In Mr. Raper's extensive study of the race question in Macon and Greene counties he seems to overlook this feature of Booker Washington's undertaking.

NEGROES CALLED FARMING ASSET

Georgia.

Brown Says Improvement of Tenant Conditions Depends on Education

4-10-37

ALBANY, Ga., April 9. (AP)—Walter S. Brown, acting director of the Georiga agricultural extension service, said here today "Georgia's 73,000 Negro farmers are a real asset to the state."

Brown, who addressed a conference of Negro vocational teachers, said the Negro farmer is so completely a part of the whole agricultural structure and of the white farmers' interest in agriculture as well "there is scarcely any line of distinction as to service."

Improvement of existing tenant conditions depends on education, Brown told the teachers.

"We've got to show farmers, both black and white, that it is to their own advantage to take care of the soil, whether they own it or not, to grew enough food and feed crops so they can live at home, and to do other things that will help them make more money and live better," he said.

In connection with this work, he said the extension service has 21 Negro county agents, 20 Negro home demonstration agents, a Negro director of agents, a Negro home demonstration leader, and a Negro 4-H club leader.

By EUGENE ANDERSON

JOHN MURPH'S TENANT STORY

John Murph is an extensive farmer near Marshallville. He is also a partner with his brother Frank in the big mercantile business at Marshallville. He was discussing the government farm resettlement problems.

"What would the government do in a case like mine?" he asked. "I had a Negro sharecropper last year who accumulated enough to carry him through 1937, and I gave him a check for $300, in addition to the feed he had accumulated. I advised him to put his $300 with his supply merchant, or in bank, or somewhere, so he would not have to go in debt for anything he needed while making his next crop.

"He took his check to town and came back with an old Buick car. He had exchanged his check for the car. He said he wanted to stay on during the coming year, but in addition to advancing to feed his family, he would have to ask for enough to feed his Buick car.

"I balked at that. I did not want to take chances on supporting a second-hand car and furnishing it with fuel for joy rides.

"So my cropper fell out with me and left, to find somebody who would give him the accommodation he wanted for his more expensive living. Now, what would the government do in a case like that?"

Some of the government men were asked the question, and their reply was, "We handle our clients a little differently. All of the cash they get comes through our cashier's office. If a client clears $300, or $600, or $1,000, the check is made payable to us for his account, and the cashier credits his account with the money. He must come to the cashier and make his requisition for what he wants. If his circumstances seem to warrant the purchase he wishes to make, the cashier gives him a check. If it is an unreasonable demand he is making, or if it is a foolish expenditure, the money is not advanced to him. That is the difference between our method of dealing with our tenants, and the methods used by the private landlords. Therefore, we keep our clients from breaking themselves when they are about to get ahead.

Newton, Ga., News
April 16, 1937

Bound To Come.

Baker county farm lands worth from $10 to $25 an acre today may be worth ten times those amounts in the not-far distance. We say "may" for the reason that it depends on how fast industrial uses of farm products are made practical.

Industrial, chemical and agricultural representatives from southern states are already conferring about the practicability of producing starch on a tremendous scale from the lowly potato. We already know that it can be done. That genius and wizard, Dr. Carver of Tuskegee, has already demonstrated that.

Industrial uses of peanuts, vegetable oils are being planned by keen-minded men with a view point to increasing the value of farm products, aside from their present raw state value.

The time is already here for experimentation. Farmers should know the nature of their soil; what it is best adapted for. Some may plant tobacco, when the nature of the land would produce another crop more profitably. Your county agent, we feel certain, would be glad to obtain an analysis of your soil for you. Then there would be no use to experiment with various crops; farmers could select the one best suited for their type soil.

It does not require any great stretch of the imagination to picture, in the coming years, an entirely changed Baker county rural section. Low lands will be drained and some crop, suited to the nature of the place, grown there. Paper pulp mills, distilleries for making wine from our scuppernongs, blackberries; factories for making starch from potatoes and power alcohol plants—all these things are certain to come in the future, whether they be in Baker county or not, but Baker county farmers will prosper.

Quitman, Ga., Advertiser
April 29, 1937

Negro Farmer Tells How To Make A Crop

Miles Hackney, of Taliaferro county was a distinguished guest at the Avondale meeting of negro farmers in Bibb county two weeks ago. He is distinguished because he had been chosen by the government to represent Georgia in the agricultural conference at Washington when nine southern states were asked to send a negro representative from each to advise with Secretary Wallace's department about the needs of the negroes in agriculture. It was stated at the meeting that Miles Hackney started out as a sharecropper after he was big enough to make a crop, and he succeeded in acquiring enough equipment and material to rise to the dignity of a tenant or renter, and as a renter he made enough to buy a farm, and now he ranks as a landowner.

Miles was called on to tell the audience how he had succeeded as a farmer. He showed no signs of undue egotism, and did not seem to feel that he had accomplished anything unusual or marvelous, but he summed up the philosophy of success for his people in this striking sentence:

"All I can advise you is to put your trust in God and work like the devil."

ONE-CROP DANGER FORESEEN

The enthusiasm over the tobacco crop this year is causing some uneasiness among the friends of diversified agriculture. One man, accustomed to watch such things, said:

"Georgians have had enough experience with single-crop agriculture to know better than to be enticed into it. No country in the world has ever prospered very long on it, depended upon one crop, but man learns slowly and unlearns quickly. We saw the peach industry go to ruin because everybody went wild about planting peaches, and after just a few years the growers were working just as hard to pull up the trees as they had worked to plant them. Good prices for cotton led us into poverty and slavery because we abandoned nearly everything else for cotton. Then after we discovered that we could make money on watermelons, some of us put all of our land into melons, and grew this year the biggest crop we have ever grown, with the result that the price fell to less than one cent a melon.

"It is doubtful if we will ever cease to lose our heads, but it is time for us to figure out a program that will give us some money every day in the year. Farmers who follow that plan don't gamble. They make profits on something all the time, and do not sustain overwhelming loss if something goes wrong with one crop."

Editorial of the Day

A FARM TENANCY SOLUTION

(From the Tampa Daily Times.)

One of the six major laws enacted by congress is a tentative step toward solving the intricate problem of farm tenancy. There is no assurance that the legislation to aid tenants in purchasing land will solve the problem that is a burden on southern economic progress.

But in Georgia a 60-year-old bachelor farmer, cited by the State College of Agriculture as one of the four "master farmers of 1937," has contributed a valuable lesson in farm management which every landlord, tenant and sharecropper could study with profit as a more sensible solution than bureaucratic federal control.

There are 22 sharecroppers and six renting tenants on Martin M. Norman's 2,000-acre plantation in Hartwell.

His plan includes crop diversification, rotation and proper use of winter cover crops and tenant conferences, and every few weeks all the tenants climb aboard a truck for a tour of their neighbors' farms and a discussion of mutual problems. Material is furnished tenants to improve their homes and they are urged to keep their children in school.

The average sharecropper plot is 28 acres, two to be planted in clover in winter and peas in summer, 12 in cotton, five in corn, five in oats, two in wheat, one in sorghum for feed and syrup and one for a home garden. The average tenant has been with "Mr. Martin" ~~10~~ years, while two of them have been on the ~~plantation 30 years~~.

Thus are defeated the common bugaboos of tenancy—frequent moving, poor housing, soil destruction, ignorance and ill health.

"The 'croppers know that when they make money for me they also make money for themselves," he says. The realization of that simple fact is better than any federal legislation.

Agriculture—1937
& Condition of.

Georgia
6

"THE MAN WITH THE" HOE AND CIO

To the Editor of The Telegraph:

Up from the ashes left by General Sherman on his "March Through Georgia" to the sea, for seventy-five years we have longed to see the farmers of the country free.

While it is true that the present National Administration is the first and only one to hand out anything to the farmers, yet the fact remains that the farmer must still stand with hat in hand and graciously accept for his labor whatever is offered and by the same token he must pay whatever price is demanded of him when he buys anything.

"A new Daniel has come to judgment," the CIO. The CIO applies to industry alone. The old A. F. of L. had some sympathy for the farmers' organization, but the CIO has no time for such a dumb bunch, but they have blazed away and all the farmers have to do now to obtain their independence, is to follow the trail.

By taking charge of private property, ignoring all court orders, defying the sheriffs and militia and not bargaining but demanding their own rate of pay, hours of labor and such vacation as they wish with pay, and holding the property until their demands are granted.

Did you ever hear of a farmer having a vacation with pay? We are afraid to suggest it to one for fear he would drop dead from shock.

Who is going to pay the bill for this half-time work and full pay plus whatever raise is added? Most of it will be added to the farmer's burden. Take steel for example. How much steel does the city man use in one year's time? Enough for a razor and pocket knife, about a quarter of a pound annually. The farmer uses thousands of pounds in farm tools and farm machinery. Compare the prices of plough points now with what you paid in 1897, and you will realize what we are talking about.

Once more Opportunity is knocking at the door of the farmer, but we fear he will fail to hear it. Once more he will be left on the outside like the Negro trying to get into office just after the War Between the States. We heard a description by a Negro speaker on the Political Situation at that time which applies to the farmers of today. Time after time his new found Republican friends had promised him a political job and time after time some white man received it. The situation became so distressing that he dreamed about it. Said he: "I dreamed I started up to see Old Saint Peter about a job; and on my way up I met a good white Republican coming down, and I said to him, 'Brother, Did you get in' and he said 'Saint Peter told me I could not enter the Golden Gate unless I was mounted, so I am looking for a mount; you let me ride you up and we will both get in together.' I did so and when we reached the gate and knocked, Saint Peter called out: 'Mounted or dismounted?' I knew then I would get in, but before Saint Peter answered he changed his mind for he said: 'Tie your horse outside and come in'."

The farmer is still tied outside. Only the workers in industry are allowed inside. Nor is this all. Unless this agreement between labor and industry takes in the farmers, all of them will soon be tenant farmers with the Government owning all the land. This is not a partisan question but one which demands the best thought of the citizens of the nation.

Take the coal industry for example. Coal formerly furnished about fifty per cent of the energy used by the United States; now it furnishes only about fifteen per cent due to the development of Hydro-electric power, Natural Gas and Coal Oil. This leaves us twice as many coal miners as we have need for. Nor is this all. For we are told that the birth rate among coal miners is higher than the general average of the nation as a whole. Cutting the hours of the work-week and increasing the basic pay will not solve this problem, it only complicates it.

There are certain natural laws in development that all CIO's and all other O's, the Supreme Court with 9 or 99 members and all the other Courts, cannot change for they are immutable and unchangeable, the law of cause and effect.

"Ill fares the land, to hastening ills of prey,
Where wealth accumulates, and men decay;
Princes and lords may flourish, or may fade
A breath can make them, as a breath has made;
But a bold peasantry, their country's pride,
When once destroyed can never be supplied."

That's our trouble today, we are destroying the farmers of the nation by passing along to them the demands of labor and industry, transportation and administration.

Like the cost of coal the freight rates are too high. Competition by bus and trucks has put hundreds of railroad men out of work. The numbers of the hours of the work-week have been reduced but the same pay and a demand for increase is now heard. In other words the cost of transportation of freight must be sufficient to take care of all of them although nearly half of them are idle while the others work. The freight on a car of peaches from Warm Springs, Georgia to New York, is in round numbers, $300.00 of which $100.00 is for icing and re-icing. Right here we wish to take time out to suggest that all refrigerator cars should be equipped with automatic refrigerators, the power to operate which could be supplied by the energy of the locomotive of the train. We pass on now to "the most unkindest" burden of all—the cost of the Administration. We believe there is over one million unnecessary employees in the United States and that this list is being augmented every year by politicians in order to hold their jobs. This is costing the tax payers about two billion dollars per annum; over twenty million of this is spent in Washington, D. C.

Economic conditions, the results of maintaining this crowd of sap suckers, causes the farmers to decay; they lose their courage after fighting year in and year out against the unjust conditions forced upon them; they give up the fight, appeal to accumulated wealth at first for a dole, then before the end, they confiscate the accumulated wealth and all go down together. In other words penalizing wealth to placate labor destroys both. One taste of blood and the tiger finishes his victim.

5-18-37

Thousands of tenant farmers have abandoned the farms and moved to the towns and cities where they can get on the relief rolls or work two or three days, that is, to pretend to work two or three days on the WPA projects and enjoy the white lights of the cities and the movies. Issuing bonds, confiscating accumulated reserves stored up to meet deficits in these lean years which come to all organizations, makes good times today but what will be left for dinner tomorrow?

The Remedy.

"He that provideth not for his own and especially the members of his own household, has denied the faith and is worse than an infidel."

Stop all immigration. Return all who are not citizens to the countries from which they came. Allow no more to come. Let each State and each community of each State take care of those requiring assistance. The Welfare clause in the preamble of the Constitution was intended for protection from evils from without, not from those from within. Sell all lands, and mortgages on lands held by the Federal Land Bank before the Federal Government owns all the lands.

Give the tenant farmers of the South (We are not familiar with the conditions of other States) a reasonable freight rate. We mean by this that the Interstate Commerce Commission should be instructed to remove the 10 to 15 per cent extra that they allow the railroads of the country to charge on the output of Southern Industries when compared to those of the East and the West. Stop borrowing money; commence to reduce the bonded indebtedness so as to lessen the billion dollar interest we are now paying annually. No use to waste millions experimenting with tenant farmers because it will add hundreds of political jobs to the expense account of the government without accomplishing anything. We came up from the farm and still have dirt in our shoes, and we wish to assure the powers that be that all tenant farmers in the South who are qualified can easily secure farms of their own; and those who are not qualified will soon lose the farms if you give them to them.

Abolish the Supreme Court and save the money it costs to operate it or leave it untrammeled. Reversing its decision to meet the approval of Congress destroys the influence of the Court. Pass an Act retiring automatically every office holder in the State and Nation at the age of 64 and this will do away with the necessity of changing the number of judges.

If Congress passes a law to regulate wages and hours in all industries will the farmers still be tied outside? We notice that a schedule in the textile industry has been proposed with a minimum wage of $15.00 per week, eight hours per day for five day week. From the windows of every cotton mill operated in the South the employee can see his sister or brother in the cotton field working twelve hours per day for six days in the week for $3.00 per week.

Nor is this all; thousands of Federal Employees will be snooping over the country investigating the operation of this wage law. We enjoyed this kind of government in our youth; we are too old to enjoy it again but we are not too old to die for the freedom guaranteed by the Constitution, life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

So to the millions of farmers of this country, we say if you are not included in the wage and hours of labor guaranteed to workers in industry, give notice now that on and after the passage of this bill you will refuse to sell anything from your farms except at a price fixed by the farmers themselves in each state.

Yes; a new Daniel has come to Judgment"; but "be ye also ready."

Warm Springs, Ga. NEAL KITCHENS.

OURS IS A NATION OF REGIONS

One of the most formidable obstacles that has faced the New Deal wherever it has turned has been the difficulty of adapting national laws and national policies to the needs of the various regions.

Dr. Howard W. Odum, on the basis of exhaustive studies, has defined these regions as the Southeast; the Southwest (Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico and Arizona); the Northeast (including Maryland and West Virginia); the Middle States; the Northwest and the Far West (all of the States on the Pacific Coast and Nevada.)

In defining, or rather redefining, these regions, Dr. Odum found that roughly, but with some notable exceptions, the States included in each had a common agricultural and economic pattern; a common heritage, tradition and culture; and other distinguishing characteristics from climate and natural resources to folkways, racial stock, and prejudices.

Most significant, perhaps, is the fact that each region has common problems, deficiencies and handicaps on the one hand and common advantages, resources and potentialities on the other.

In any national approach these regions must be kept in mind. But we are by nature a provincial people. The individual from Mississippi knows little of the maple trees of Maine; nor does the individual from Maine have any conception of the one-mule farm of Mississippi. Similarly,

congressmen know little about the nature of regions other than their own.

Dr. W. W. Alexander, national administrator of the Resettlement Administration, in speaking to the staff of the regional organization here cited these difficulties as related to the problem of developing a national program for aiding the landless farmers.

Dr. Alexander, an authority on the Southeast, by virtue of his long residence here, said that tenancy in this section had little in common with the plight of the migratory farm laborers of the West Coast. In New England, he said, the 20-acre farmers who sought help from the RA did not want a mule or plow, but aid for baseball bat factories and sauer kraut canneries which provided them part-time employment. In the drought bowl of the Middle States, stricken wheat farmers do not want "40 acres and a mule."

But Congress cannot pass a law which would specify that the farmer of Vermont should be dealt with in one fashion and the farmer of Kansas in another.

These difficulties that arise because of regional differences are not confined to agriculture. They are to be found in education, politics, child labor, industrial relations, development of natural resources, industrialization and many other phases of our national life which the government has been called upon to deal with.

Dr. Alexander told of an observation made by Sir Wilmont Lewis, the English journalist, who has followed the activities of Congress for a quarter of a century from the point of view of a disinterested, but sympathetic, observer. The famous correspondent of The London Times said he had observed that legislation passed by Congress was in effect a series of inter-regional treaties.

The observation was a sound one.

The solid opposition of the Southern delegation in Congress to the Gavagan anti-lynching bill is not a defense of lynching, nor can it be attributed entirely to devotion to the doctrine of States' rights in the sense the term is used most frequently.

The legislation is designed to deal with a problem which is recognized as peculiar to one region. Should the Southern delegation favor its adoption, it would be to admit that this region cannot or is unwilling to deal with a problem that is confined to its borders. If lynching were a national problem, the members of the Southern delegation would be released from their allegiance to a particular region. As it is they are opposed to making a treaty with the representatives of other regions when the application of the treaty is confined to their region alone.

To preserve the assets of regional differentiations and at the same time find the means to solve those problems which are regional in character will be one of the most difficult problems of an era which is to be characterized by the entry of government into broader and broader fields of endeavor. To develop the machinery for a regional approach to those economic and social questions which are purely regional in character would be most helpful.

Two years afo, if we recall correctly, South Carolina passed legislation dealing with child labor with the provision that the act was to go into effect if Georgia and Tennessee enacted similar legislation. At the time, The Advertiser was impressed with the possibilities of this approach to a recognized social need, the characteristics of which are similar in the States involved and the solution of which could best be arrived at by a common approach. It will be interesting to follow the course of this particular departure and of any others which might give promise of effective regional action

Wealth In Medicinal Plants

The school of pharmacy of the University of Georgia is preparing to make an extensive study of the medicinal value of many plants which grow wild in this state and it is believed that this may be the forerunner of extensive cultivation of these plants such as will bring a handsome increase in the profits of the farm.

We are reminded that when the white man came to this country he found the Indians using many plants and their extracts for medicinal purposes. In the Blue Ridge Mountains the native population depend largely for a living on the collection and sale of medicinal plants, probably without including ginsing, which is bought in large quantities by the Chinese but is not known to have any real medicinal value.

Large warehouses are built in various North Carolina centers for the storing of these medicinal plants when they are collected by the mountain people but the collecting has been so extensive that many of these valuable plants are threatened with extinction. Strangely enough, with all our conservation activities we do not appear to have made any provision for this conservation.

When we consider the number and variety of these plants with a high medicinal value and the number used in making insecticides, it seems possible that a new field will open up for the Georgia farmer in their cultivation.

At all events the school of pharmacy is making a study which may prove of the greatest value to the people of Georgia and, indeed, of the whole country.

This study is also expected to find a way to destroy the noxious weeds on which cattle feed, such as the bitter-weed, which gives a bitter taste to milk and butter. Thus the farmer will profit in a double sense by these investigations.

TENANT TELLS OF TENANT TROUBLE

So many Social Science writers have been condemning the share cropping and tenantry systems on the farms of the nation, the subject is one of paramount importance. The federal government has gone so far as to attack the system with millions of dollars of tax money. Every effort is being made to convert the share-croppers and the tenants into landowners.

The following interview with a Georgia tenant shows why tenants do not quickly become landowners. It also shows why tenanted farms run down in productiveness and in value. The tenant puts the blame on the landlord; and if the landlord could be reached by an appeal to common sense, the distressing conditions could be easily remedied by a different form of rental contracts. The interview is genuine. The Circle Man has talked with a number of tenants, but never before has he found one willing to tell the tenant's secret motives and to expose his reasoning.

A white man of intelligence sat in the community store out of the rain. He showed some signs of a hard life, and yet he was not without hope, and in his face was reflected purity of purpose and strength of character.

"Were you born here?" he was asked.

"No, I've been here little more than two years."

"Where did you live before that time?"

He gave the information.

"What caused yqu to change? Isn't that a fine country?"

"A man likes to change occasionally, doesn't he?"

"Is not the contrary true?" he was asked. "A man must find discontent of some kind before he thinks of changing his environment. When he moves he does so because he is not entirely satisfied where he is and hopes to find things better where he plans to go. Have you found this a better community than the one you left?"

He then became confidential, and explained the situation as follows: "I did not own my land; I rented it, and I had been improving it, and making it produce more and more each year. I was foolish enough to spend my own money to build up the other fellow's property, believing he would be as liberal with me as I was with him. But to my astonishment he called on me for more rent, saying that as I was making more I could afford to pay more. Who made his land produce more? He certainly had nothing to do with it. I had paid him his rent, and had taken care of his land as if it had been my own: and there he sat watching for a chance to rob me of the fruits of my work. I wouldn't stand any such injustice; so I surprised him by putting my things on trucks and moving away.

"I've been reading what you said about the tenant system, and I have wondered why you couldn't see this big point of difference between the land owner and the land renter. I'm not a share cropper; I rent the land and furnish my own equipment for operating, and I tell you this way the landlords have of raising rents is the cause of so much rundown property. A tenant has too much sense as a rule to get caught in the trap that was set for me. I was caught in it because I placed too much confidence in the other fellow. Wanting to be fair myself, and having a desire to do things right, I forgot about the weakness of human nature, and the desire of the other fellow to take advantage of you when you give him the chance. If landlords would get their own heart right and use a little more common sense in making their rent contracts, we would see fewer rundown farms and unpainted houses all around the farming section of Georgia. Both tenant and landlord would profit greatly if they could come to an understanding on this point."

"May I quote you on what you've said? It is a subject that should be discussed in the open. The public is interested in it for more reasons than one. Georgia is suffering because of the misunderstanding, and the public mind should be directed to it."

"No, I can't afford to be quoted. The landlords would at once begin to pick on me. I am in the same plight with other tenants, and it would be unwise for me to stand out in front and begin a fight."

"You'll admit a fight ought to be made?"

"Yes, it's all wrong, and the public ought to be made to understand it; but I can't afford to make enemies by talking out in meeting. I just get mad and move off when they treat me wrong."

"That hurts nobody but you. The landlord finds another tenant, and sells to him the fruits of your industry. You have to go to another farm and rent it at a low price, and if you build it up your previous experience will be repeated, and you will find yourself moving from place to place all of your life, doing nothing for yourself except to get even with a mean landlord by pouting at him. If you refuse to build up his land you are making poor crops for yourself, and you are getting poorer; so why not join me in dragging the subject before the public and making them discuss it. Probably all other tenants are in your fix, and nobody does anything about the trouble, and everybody suffers—landlords, tenants, newspapers, merchants, banks, lawyers, physicians, dentists, and everybody else in the community. Nobody profits by your poverty, but many would profit by your prosperity. If you're afraid to let me use your name, I am going to write the story anyway; but I'll represent you as a "tenant" just one of many. That won't be as effective as if you had allowed me to identify you, but it may save you the embarrassment you fear."

He consented to this, and said he would be looking for the story.

Agriculture - 1937

Condition of

Louisiana

Columbia S C State
November 24, 1937

NEGROES RECRUITED TO SAVE LOUISIANA SUGAR CANE CROP

Baton Rouge, La., Nov. 23.—(UP)—Governor Richard Leche tonight ordered the Louisiana National Guard to transport an estimated 5,000 Negro WPA workers, hastily recruited from projects over the state, into the sugar bowl district to save $6,000,000 worth of cane from cold weather.

Leche, ill with influenza, called a conference at the mansion and ordered WPA work suspended. He telephoned the mayors of New Orleans, New Iberia, Alexandria, Plaquemine, Houma, Thibodaux, and Lafayette to co-operate, and ordered Adjutant General Ray Fleming to mobilize guardsmen with trucks and emergency camp equipment.

"About 60 per cent. of the present crop is still standing," said Leche. "Its potential value is about $6,000,000. Because of the recent unseasonable and prolonged spell of cold weather, there is grave danger that if this standing cane is not windrowed within the week it will sour and be a total loss."

Agriculture-1937
Condition of.

Mississippi.

Brandon, Miss. News
January 14, 1937

Negro Farmers in County Progress

County Agent R. E. Lee's Annual Report Shows Definite Strides in Agriculture Among Colored Farmers. Advancement in All Lines.

The annual report filed by R. E. Lee, Negro County Agent, reveals some interesting facts and figures in connection with his work of the past year. The program as a whole was the most gratifying since the office of county agent was instituted several years ago, and shows some worthwhile accomplishments in the improvement of living conditions and agriculture generally.

Among the important phases of work in which the Negro farmers have been benefited are the farm bureau with its saving on purchase of fertilizers and seed; the Resettlement program aided 500 Negro families to re-establish themselves on the farm and become self-supporting. Terracing demonstrations were conducted in 19 communities, and other phases of agricultural engineering including drainage, land clearing, repairing machinery, remodeling buildings netted a saving of over $6,000 to 200 odd farmers. Soil conservation also played a leading part on the negro farms, 85 percent of the farmers signed work sheets and planted soil building crops.

Corn and cotton contests proved profitable. One-variety of cotton brought better yields and better prices, and of the 175 farmers participating in the two-acre corn contests, 68 completed their projects with an average yield of 46 1-3 bushels per acre. Club boys in the corn club made an even better record with an average yield of 47.7 bushels per acre.

Irish potatoes were grown as a side line to supplement other crops in Greenhill and Enoch Grove communities. The venture was a success.

Breeding of work stock is finding a place in many communities. Several have purchased breeding stock.

With the live-at-home program kept constantly before them by County Agent Lee, farmers are now raising sufficient meat for their own consumption. Seventy-one families cured and stored 5,297 pounds of meat the past year, which at the market price was valued at $6,528. Boys of the 4-H clubs are also interested in hog raising with splendid results.

Beef raising is another profitable occupation. Forty-one men engaged in the raising of beef cattle and followed the information given them by County Agent Lee regarding care of their herds.

Proof that the Negro farmers are realizing the value of living-at-home is seen in the large number owning milk cows. Seventy-five percent of them are reported to own cows, and several have dairy herds that are showing fair profit. Club boys are also interested in cattle raising, of both the beef and dairy type.

Along with swine and dairying much stress has been placed on poultry.

Home orchards have been built up, and the farmers instructed in the Mogren method of care. Nineteen demonstrations were given. A total of 1,251 trees were set out for home use only during the year. Result: A large amount of canned fruit at the close of the season.

Seventeen junior clubs were organized in 1936 with 451 members who carried on 456 demonstrations in corn, soy-beans, peanuts, sweet potatoes, cotton, poultry, dairying and pigs. Of the number 266 boys completed their projects. Club work has made outstanding strides during the past year.

In the 19 communities carrying on Extension work, 11 community organizations have been formed for the purpose of improving the standard of living. In one community members built a two-room log school house for a total cash outlay of $38. The building is valued at $1,265.

Much has been done toward home improvement through the efforts of the county and home agents, who offered suggestions and gave practical demonstrations in a series of joint meetings. As a result 150 homes were improved in some manner.

Remembering that all work and no play is not healthful, the recreational side was by no means overlooked. A specific program worked out at the county club meeting is presented in each community.

Treating and care of livestock has helped white as well as colored farmers. Lee's record shows treatment of nearly 4,000 head of livestock for various diseases during the year.

The program for 1937 covers an even larger scope of work with a definite plan for the method of achievement.

TENANCY DISCUSSED AT C. OF C. MEETING

Commercial Appeal

Delta Leaders Approve U. S. Attempts at Solution

FLOOD CONTROL IS TOPIC

3-7-37

Work of Engineers in Recent Emergency Praised — Committees Are Announced By President

Special to The Commercial Appeal

CLEVELAND, Miss., March 6.—Farm tenancy and flood control were discussed at a meeting of the executive committee and board of directors of the Delta Chamber of Commerce at the Delta State Teachers College in Cleveland yesterday.

The meeting was attended by more than 50 members and guests, including Lieut. Gov. Billy Snider, Oscar Johnston of Scott and engineers of the Mississippi Levee District.

In an open discussion of the farm tenancy problem, Mr. Johnston asked the directorate to authorize the chairman of the agricultural committee, J. T. Thomas, Jr., of Holmes County, to express the Chamber's indorsement of the attempt of the government toward the betterment of the tenant situation, but that it opposed the move on the part of the government to acquire vast bodies of land for the purpose of selling and renting.

Higher Prices Needed

Mr. Johnston stated that 65 or 70 per cent of the crop income is being now turned over to the tenant and that the value of the farm product must be enhanced before the conditions can be altered.

On flood control, N. F. Offenhiser of Clarksdale, chief engineer of the upper levee board, expressed his reliance on the army engineers in handling the emergency situation which has just passed, stating that the few weaknesses of the present system will be taken care of before another emergency can arise.

Committees Named

W. M. Kethley of Cleveland, president of the Chamber, announced the following committees after a meeting of the executive committee this morning:

Arrangements committee for the annual meeting to be held in Clarksdale on April 1; C. G. Smith and Tom Gibson of Coahoma County, S. A. Withers of Tunica County, E. F. Borman and E. W. Still of Clarksdale, Coahoma County, Jack Bradford of Itta Bena, Ben Sturdivant of Glendora and Bill Berger of Cleveland; finance committee Steven Schlig and W. T. Wynn of Washington County, H. L. Gary of Leflore County, C. G. Smith of Coahoma County and M. P. Sturdivant of Tallahatchie County; nominating committee, W. M. Kethley of Cleveland, John Petty of Greenwood, James Hand of Rolling Fork, C. G. Smith of Clarksdale and Frank England of Greenville.

SOUTH 'MUST SOLVE' OWN FARM PROBLEM

Extension Head Backs Views Of Johnston On Tenancy

3-13-37

COLUMBUS, Miss., March 12.—The south's tenant farmer problem "must be solved by Southern people themselves and not by people at Washington."

That was the expressed belief yesterday of E. H. White, state extension director, who spoke before the Kiwanis club.

Mr. White urged that southerners not let "people not in sympathy with us set up laws," and agreed with recently expressed views of Oscar Johnson, head of the government cotton pool.

The speaker said "it takes an executive to run a farm," adding that most tenants were without business ability.

He reviewed the government's participation in agriculture and concluded with his opinion of the tenant farmer problem which he declared was "serious."

The extension chief said wise land use would aid in bringing economic democracy to the nation, declaring that the agricultural problem was brought about largely because of use of sub-marginal land which brought no profit to the owner but did pile up commodity surpluses.

Compliance with the present soil conservation act, Mr. White said, should result in reclamation of much land depleted over a period of many years.

He said the state's farm income jumped from 100 millions in 1932 and 280 millions last year.

DELTA LEADER URGES REVISION OF PROGRAM FOR TENANCY RELIEF

Oscar Johnston Criticizes New Deal Plans for Purchase, Resale of Lands

3-9-37

SIBLEY HITS COURT MOVE

U. S. C. of C. Head Questions Congress' Right to Act

FARM 'CLASSES' PREDICTED

Planter Tells Jackson Meeting He Is Opposed to Political Significance of Agricultural Program

From The Commercial Appeal
Jackson, Miss., Bureau

BY KENNETH TOLER

JACKSON, Miss., March 8.—President Roosevelt's proposed reform of the Supreme Court and the report of a New Deal commission on farm tenancy drew a double-barreled attack here today at a state-wide meeting of business leaders and farmers.

President Harper Sibley of the United States Chamber of Commerce and Oscar Johnston, delta planter and AAA official, speaking before the group meeting called by the Jackson Chamber of Commerce, were the critics of the two New Deal proposals.

Need For Reforms

Mr. Johnston, manager of the world's largest cotton plantation at Scott, Miss., saw the need for certain reforms in the existing tenancy system, but directed vigorous criticism at the New Deal commission's recommendation that the government purchase millions of acres of land for the purpose of setting tenants up as farmers.

Mr. Johnston charged the plan would create two types of farmers in the south, "free farmers" and "government tenants." He described himself as "opposed to the political significance of it."

The deltan decried the "great amount of misinformation on the tenancy program," and said he was "struck by the unwillingness of many to read the obvious lessons from history."

Type of Business

Mr. Johnston saw the tenant system as a type of business, in contrast with the one-family system of subsistence farming.

"There is no more highly competitive business than that of farming," he said. "There are just as many successful farmers as there are merchants, shoe store owners and others.

"Every shoe clerk cannot become a shoe store owner, and every factory worker can't become a factory owner," he exclaimed.

He described the farm tenant report made by Secretary of Agriculture Wallace's commission as making recommendations that would take tenants from landlords and make then tenants of the nation.

He explained that under the commission's plan the government would acquire ownership to land in fee simple and give tenants 20 years or more to acquire ownership. He said "the nation is not a proper landlord."

Plan for Loans

Mr. Johnston subscribed to a plan worked out by the Delta Chamber of Commerce through which the government would set up an agency for the loaning of money to "thrifty, capable tenants" for the purchase of farm acreage.

He urged the setting up of restrictions to prevent speculation in land and said the government would find the owners of large acreage willing to sell to capable tenants.

"The legislative outlook in Washington has been obscured by the controversy that has arisen over the proposal to reconstitute the Supreme Court of the United States by the appointment of six additional judges," President Sibley said at a night banquet attended by Governor White.

Simple Question

"This has become the overshadowing issue in Congress. The outcome will affect the legislative program. Much is being said and written on the subject, a good deal of which is irrelevant. The question may be put in simple terms. It is this: Shall the Supreme Court be so reconstituted, under cover of a congressional enactment, as to bring about a reversal of decisions made in the course of many years and reaffirmed unanimously by the court in the NRA case of May, 1935? The effect of these decisions has been to prevent the federal government from usurping authority reserved by the Constitution to the states and the people of the states.

"This is not a partisan or a class question. It affects directly every citizen and involves fundamental principles of government. It should not be obscured or distorted by collateral considerations.

Specific Proposal

"On the specific proposal now before Congress, the national chamber has taken no stand, but the member organizations of the chamber have, in the past, made clear their position as to any proposal that the legislative department of the federal government should encroach upon the judicial department or should indicate the conclusion it should reach in the proper exercise of the judicial power. They declared by formal resolution in 1928:

"'The three departments — the legislative, the judicial and the executive—each has its separate functions. They must work together, but canont and must not conflict with each other, if our government is to endure and our people prosper. Any effort by the legislative branch to usurp or limit the functions of the judiciary must result in diasaster.'

Ample Evidence

"We have ample evidence that the membership of the national chamber remains steadfast in its support of these principles, recognizing that the Constitution itself prescribes the only way by which it may be amended or altered—a way which contemplates that Congress should go no further than to propose amendments to the states for their consideration and for such action as they and their own people may see fit to take."

Other speakers included Charles Sheppard of Clarks, La.; Sam Clabaugh of Birmingham, Ala.; Clem Johnston of Roanoke, Va., all directors of the U. S. Chamber; Dave Skinner, secretary of the U. S. Chamber; J. C. Holton, state commissioner of agriculture, and E. D. Kenna, director of the state highway department.

Mr. Kenna, of the state highway department, told the meeting Mississippi will pave 2,100 miles of highways under the present $42,500,000 program and it is anticipated a new program virtually as large will be inaugurated in 1938 through recommendation of Governor White.

By The Way

By GEORGE MORRIS

Renter vs. Owner

C. E. BARRENTINE, a hill farmer from Carroll County, Mississippi appeared before the Senate Agriculture Subcommittee at its Memphis hearing, in which it was endeavored to determine the sentiment of producers toward future agricultural legislation. The Associated Press carried a statement from Mr. Barrentine and this further interesting paragraph: "Barrentine said he would be better off working as a sharecropper for Oscar Johnston, an Administration cotton adviser, than to try to hold his farm under the program as it has been working."

There is no doubt that Mr. Barrentine stated the exact truth. In further confirmation of his veracity it might be asserted that, in all probability, there is not a sharecropper among Mr. Johnston's tenants who would exchange places with Mr. Barrentine. However, it is manifestly unjust to seek to leave the impression that Mr. Johnston's sharecroppers are any different from any other sharecroppers in participating in Government agricultural benefits, or that sharecroppers have any advantage over landowners.

In fact, most of the argument raised against the agricultural program has been based on the contention that landowners and not the tenants have enjoyed the principal benefits. Even so worthy an individual as Dr. Will Alexander, director of the Farm Security Administration, wrote a book on the AAA, in which he asserted that the landowners wrote the bill, got all the benefits, and tenants went on relief.

THERE IS SOMETHING more fundamental than the suggestion of favoritism which makes Mr. Johnston's tenants more fortunate than Mr. Barrentine, the landowner. The explanation is that Mr. Johnston's tenants cultivate some of the richest land in the country, while some of the hill land of Carroll County is about as unproductive as could be found anywhere.

Mr. Johnston's sharecroppers produce around a bale to the acre of long staple cotton, for which they receive a substantial premium. Some of the hill land of Carroll County produces the variety known in local parlance as "bumblebee" cotton, requiring from three to five acres to produce a bale, which then might not measure seven-eighths inch or qualify for the nine-cent loan. This contrast, lest it be interpreted as unfair to Carroll County, it should be explained, refers to the poorest land in the county as compared to the richest in the Delta.

BUT IF CARROLL COUNTY does not produce large quantities of long cotton, it may at least claim the distinction of producing some mighty tall men. A county need not worry over the length of its cotton staple when it can boast such families as the Georges, Moneys, Binghams, Turners, Rays, to mention only a few of the scores who have contributed to shaping the destiny of the state and Nation. James Z. George and Hernando DeSoto Money, two of the ablest senators ever given the Nation by any state, were neighbors, residing a few miles from Carrollton. But that has nothing to do with the price of cotton, the length of the staple or the size of Government benefits.

The simple fact is that if Mr. Barrentine should abandon his farm and work as a sharecropper for Mr. Johnston, he would, as he says, be able to pay half he produced for rent and still be much better off than he is now. But Mr. Barrentine and few other Carroll County hill farmers care to live in the Delta, much less work as sharecroppers. There is a sense of independence and a feeling of security in land ownership that nothing else brings. It is that spirit of independence and initiative that causes poor land to yield a rich heritage in citizenship.

IT WOULD BE fortunate if the statement of Mr. Barrentine could be read by all the people in New York and Boston, whose hearts are bleeding for the plight of the sharecropper. If they knew the facts they would understand that the sharecropper is the one individual with not a care in the world. The farmers who worry are those who struggle to hold their farms, like Mr. Barrentine, and give their children a heritage upon which to build for better things.

It would be interesting for other sections of the country to know something of this situation at a time when the Government is engaged in the enterprise of financing sharecroppers and making landowners of them. It isn't likely that Mr. Barrentine will lose his farm. He will more likely, despite the struggle, see the thing through and pass on to his children a heritage richer than the richest land.

But when the Government has established on farms owners who have never made a sacrifice, had no experience in management and less pride in possession, the chances are that they will not linger long. We dare say Mr. Barrentine's earthly possessions represent the toil of years and the sweat of his face. There are few possessions achieved any other way that are valued for their worth.

Agriculture - 1937
Condition of.

North Carolina

Raleigh, N. C. Observer
January 25, 1937

NEGRO FARMERS MAKE HIGH YIELD

Robeson County Farmer Gets 101.92 Bushels for Biggest Corn Yield

By C. R. HUDSON,
State College.

Seven hundred and ten Negro farmers on 1,424 acres averaging two acres each, conducted corn-growing demonstrations yielding an average of 48.5 bushels at a cost of $16.20 per acre, or an average of 34 cents per bushel, during the year 1936.

The highest individual yields were as follows: A. G. Thompson, Lumberton, Robeson County, 101.92 bushels; second, Edward Ballard, Rich Square, Northampton County, 100.28 bushels; third, James Boone, Elizabeth City, Pasquotank County, 96.3 bushels; fourth, J. M. Lee, Gatesville, Gates County, 91.2 bushels; fifth, J. B. Jones, Bahama, Durham County, 90.9 bushels; sixth, J. J. Mitchell, Pasquotank County, 90 bushels.

The following seven made between 80 and 90 bushels per acre: Sealas Johnson, Pasquotank County, 88.5; M. R. Riddick, Gates County, 86.4; J. D. Stallings, Gates, 85.7; James H. Knight, Halifax County, 85; George Shaw, Guilford, 83.7; E. A. Garner, Alamance, 81.8, and C. E. Lightner, Wake County, 80 bushels.

In addition to those named above, extension agents have filed detailed records of 67 other farmers who produced between 50 and 80 bushels per acre.

Stable manure was used on these demonstrations only in a few individual cases, and only an average of 260 pounds of complete fertilizer per acre. Probably more could have been used profitably. The average application of nitrate of soda was 120 pounds per acre. Ninety-five per cent of them planted a good, improved variety of corn. Most of them saved plenty of seed for this year's planting.

Durham Leads.

The agent receiving the award for best all-around work in the contest is T. A. Hamme of Durham County. His record shows the largest number of demonstrations conducted, with 90 per cent reporting a high average yield and a profit per acre above the general average. He was very enthusiastic and energetic in his work. He has his farmers thoroughly interested in better methods of corn growing. The agent who ranked first in this respect last year, H. L. Mitchell of Gates County, ranks second this year. The farmer making the highest yield, A. G. Thompson of Robeson County, 101.92 bushels, is awarded a free trip to Washington, D. C., by Negro friends of the work.

The object of conducting corn-growing demonstrations and contests is not merely to procure a few big yields, but to teach through demonstrations and otherwise the better methods of corn production that will return larger yields per acre at less cost than ordinary methods. Our State still buys large quantities of high price corn from other states. It is intended to reduce this outflow of money and have plenty of corn at a very moderate cost.

Negro farmers who engaged in this contest for 1936 are fortunate in that the estimated yield of corn in the United States fell from about 25 to 15 bushels per acre for 1936.

Henderson, N. C. Dispatch
January 23, 1937

HIGH CORN YIELDS IN NEGRO CONTEST

College Station, Raleigh, Jan. 23.—An average yield of 48.5 bushels to the acre was produced by 710 North Carolina Negro farmers participating in a corn-growing contest last year. The official results were announced today by C. R. Hudson, who has charge of State College extension work with colored farmers. He also pointed out that the average corn yield for the entire State is around 18 bushels per acre.

The highest yields were: A. G. Thompson, Roberson county, 101.9 bushels; Edward Ballard, Northampton county, 100.2 bushels, James Boone, Pasquotank county, 96.3 bushels; J. M. Lee, Gates county, 91.2 bushels; J. B. Jones, Durham county, 90.9 bushels.

Eight growers secured yields of 80 to 90 bushels per acre, and 67 produced from 50 to 80 bushels to the acre. Hudson continued.

Greensboro, N. C., News
January 11, 1937

NEGRO FARMER PASSES OUT OF TENANT CLASS

(Special to Daily News)

Kinston, Jan. 10.—J. B. Hill, negro farmer, said today he was through with the "chaingang" to which he belonged for years. The south's millions of farm tenants constitute an economic chaingang Hill told P. G. Fuller, negro farm agent here. He had done better than the great majority of tenants—saved enough, by sacrificing, to buy a 97-acre farm. While "walking erect and proudly" he will, he said, purchase purebred livestock and modern machinery, erect new buildings and plant soil improving crops. Crop rotation will be the order on the farm.

Agriculture - 1937
6
Condition of.

Southern Agricultural Workers' Association.
6

FLOOD NOT TO DELAY FARM CONFERENCE

ATHENS, Ga., Feb. 1.—(AP)—The annual meeting of the Southern Agricultural Workers' Association, scheduled to be held in Nashville, Tenn., February 3, 4 and 5, will not be postponed due to the flood situation.

President L. R. Neal has stated the association leaders have decided flood problems increase the importance of holding the meeting now.

The Georgia delegation will leave for the meeting Tuesday, headed by J. A. Evans, administrative assistant in the Georgia Agricultural Extension Service and vice president of the association, and E. S. Center, Atlanta railway agricultural agent, secretary-treasurer.

2/2/37

Others scheduled to attend and participate include Director Brown, C. G. Garner, county agent; Felix Jenkins, K. S. Trowbridge and Arthur F. Gannon, of the extension service; G. D. Marckworth, of the School of Forestry; Frank E. Mitchell, J. W. Simons, R. H. Driftmier and Dr. Milton P. Jarnagin, of the College of Agriculture; B. L. Southwell, of the Coastal Plains Experiment Station, and J. J. Skinner, H. B. Mann, E. R. Collins, E. T. Batten, R. P. Bledsoe, K. T. Holley, Z. A. Massey, F. S. Edwards, Mary Spiers, E. F. Cowart and H. L. Cochran, federal and state workers at the Georgia Experiment Station.

Agriculture-1937
Condition of.

South Carolina.

Charleston, S. C. News & Courier
March 15, 1937

NEGROES TO HUSK RICE AT MUSEUM

Plantation Hands Will Give Exhibition of Methods Once Known to Many

Nine negro hands from a plantation on the Combahee river will begin a series of exhibitions in the preparation of rice for the market, at the Charleston museum under the direction of Theodore D. Ravenel, the last of the large scale rice planters of this state.

The workers arrived here yesterday from the plantation. They will give practically continuous demonstrations for about ten days in a large area on the museum's north gallery.

More than fifty bushels of rice on the stalk were brought to the museum last week and stacked in a heap on the gallery. Brooms, frails, mortars and pestles, to be used in the exhibitions, also have been secured.

Beginning at 10 o'clock this morning the negro plantation workers will begin flailing and husking rice just as it was done many years ago when the rice business flourished in the Lowcountry. The space for the exhibition has been roped off and a large canvas, padded with sawdust, has been stretched over the floor.

E. Milby Burton, director of the museum, which is sponsoring the show, and E. Burnham Chamberlain, curator of crustacea at the museum, assisted Mr. Ravenel in making preparations.

The bulk of the rice to be used in the demonstrations was secured by Mr. Ravenel from Hickory Hill. H. M. Sage, Jr., of Belle Isle near Georgetown, also donated some rice.

For the first few days of this week shows will be almost continuous each day. If audiences merit it, continuous daily exhibitions may be given during the ten days. If the supply of rice is exhausted the hands may give demonstration of carn grinding with the equipment owned by the museum.

The hands, all of whom have been raising some rice on plantations, will prepare the grains for market just as they do at home. Mr. Chamberlain said Saturday that the negroes still raise rice for their own consumption.

While in Charleston, the plantation hands will stay with relatives. When Mr. Ravenel confronted the negroes with the opportunity of participating in the exhibition, he explained that no funds were available to place them in hostelries. All said they had "cousins" in the city. During the demonstrations the workers will be dressed in their field-working clothes and in all probability they will chant plantation songs as they go about their tasks.

Walterboro, S. C. Press & Standard
May 27, 1937

THE MARCH OF TENANCY IN STATE

THERE has recently come into our office a chart showing the "march of tenancy" in South Carolina since 1880. In that year there was an even 50 per cent of tenants, which has since grown to 62 per cent in 1935. There was a total in 1935 of 102,926 tenants. These ranged from 28 per cent of all landowners in Beaufort county to 80 per cent in Marlboro county.

The table and percentages show some interesting facts. It would be thought that in the "black belt" of the state, where the negro population is so large, that the percentage of tenancy would be greater, but such is not the case. The lowest tenancy per cent in the state is Beaufort county which has the largest negro population of any county in the state. Berkeley county with 29 per cent comes second, with Georgetown third with 30 per cent. Charleston county has 33 per cent; Dorchester county has 36 per cent and Colleton comes sixth with a total of 37 per cent.

Another fact worthy of note is that the large cotton producing counties have the largest percentage of tenant farmers. Allendale, 76 and Barnwell, 70, large cotton counties in lower South Carolina; Marlboro, 80 and Dillon, 79, are samples of the percentages in heavy cotton producing counties. This is because there are large plantations in these counties and the owners largely live in the towns while their farms are operated with tenant labor.

It is, indeed, unfortunate that there should be an increase in farm tenancy. Much of the direct relief which has been paid in South Carolina has been paid to non-landowning people. It would seem to be a good policy for the United States government to procure small farms for many of the tenant farmers and by a close supervision over their activities, making the payments small, the interest small, give an opportunity for these to become home owners, and thus independent. It would mean more stability, and the government would be able in a few years to show some excellent results of such policy, whereas, there will be no improvement if direct relief is continued. It will be making a mendicant class among our people, and such policy will be destructive of manhood and independence of character.

Greenville, S. C. Piedmont
October 26, 1937

FARMERS HERE STUDY COTTON CONTROL PLAN

Between 400 And 500 Attend Meeting; Presided Over By President Mann Of The Chamber Of Commerce

Between four and five hundred county cotton farmers gathered at 2 o'clock this afternoon at Textile Hall to hear state agricultural officials discuss current cotton control plans and to attempt to formulate a plan for themselves.

Presiding at the meeting was President A. C. Mann of the Greenville Chamber of Commerce who welcomed the farmers, approximately 75 of whom were negroes, and introduced Congressman C. Heyward Mahon, Jr.

Speaking briefly Mr. Mahon pledged himself to take back whatever suggestions the farmers had to offer to the floor of congress when it convenes for its special session in a few days.

"My opinion has always been that the farm brains of this country are on the farm and not under the capitol dome," he said. He pointed out that all farm plans introduced at the last session were unfair to the cotton farmer, and drew applause when he stated that it was due to the efforts of the Southern legislative bloc that none of them were passed.

He emphasized the fact that the president had warned that the budget must be taken no further out of balance, but said that it was the desire of the Congress to enact farm legislation with due regard to the treasury which would be beneficial to the cotton farmers.

W. R. Gray, county farm agent, then took the floor to greet the farmers, and to introduce the principal speaker, R. W. Hamilton of Clemson, state AAA director.

Mr. Hamilton dwelled at length upon the seriousness of the current cotton situation. "The fact that so many of you are here at this meeting indicates that something drastic has happened to you," he said.

He compared the situation of agriculture, which he termed "the biggest business," to that of other businesses. "Imagine what business men would do if they suddenly found that what they had expected to receive for their goods had been reduced by a quarter. That is what happened to cotton farmers who, up to a few months ago, thought they would get 12 cents for their cotton and are now selling it for 8 cents."

"I would like to tell you that this slump is only temporary," he said, "but I do not know whether it is or not." Many farmers are now in danger of losing their homes, he added.

Mr. Hamilton stated that the present condition of the cotton farmers is much more serious than it was in the "dark days of 1932 and 1933." "Then everyone else was in the same boat, but today the cotton farmer is the only one who is suffering. Every phase of business is better, and even every other phase of agriculture. Farmers who grow corn, wheat, tobacco, and beef are better off than they have been in years. You people do not have public sympathy on your side and any appropriation you get you will get by fighting."

The speaker then went into a discussion of the causes of the present depression among cotton growers, urging the farmers to find out what is happening to them and "not to let any other interest do your thinking for you."

Also scheduled to speak later in the afternoon was A. A. McKeown, district farm agent. The meeting was to conclude with an open discussion from the floor.

Agriculture - 1937
Condition of.

Texas.

FARM TENANCY COMMITTEE IN FIRST MEETING

State Farmers And Agents Discuss Problems

DALLAS.—The first meeting of a series of regional meetings which will be held over the nation under the chairmanship of L. T. Gray, executive secretary, for the purpose of working out a new law to eliminate evils of farm tenancy. Farmers and county agents from all parts of the state made up the audience in the morning session which was held in the auditorium of the municipal building.

In the afternoon session representatives were heard from organizations of the southwest that included Texas and Oklahoma branches of the Southern Tenant Farmers Association.

D. P. Trent, Dallas, regional head of the Resettlement Administration, outlined the problem before the committee. From a map showing the prevalence of tenantry among American farmers, Mr. Trent pointed out that 55 per cent of the farms in Texas and 61 per cent in Oklahoma live on farms that they do not own. Texas alone has 268,000 tenants, he said. 'One third of them moved last year, 43 per cent of the tenants in Oklahoma moved in 1934 also and only one out of twenty-five tenants in Texas has stayed as long as fifteen years."

Among the Negroes who took part in the Committee Meeting were C. A. Walton, Dallas County agent, who said that nine years and eleven months ago 600 Negroes owned farms in Dallas County. Up until last year, only 242 were land owners. The total to date is 78. Mr. Walton stated that he believed that Dallas County land is too valuable for farm land. Mr. Walton also asserted that any number of Negroes were put off their farms because of AAA checks.

T. D. Rollins, County Agent for Harris County, and J. E. Taylor, head of Extension work for Negro farmers in Oklahoma, were also speakers of the evening.

H. B. Sutton, Dallas, owner of lands in the Panhandle, told the committee that more than 100 acres of land would be needed for profitable farming in the Panhandle sections; but some member of the forum went on to assert that in view of the plausibility of Mr. Sutton's assertion other sections of the state would not necessitate more than 40 acres grant.

The entire testimony having been recorded by five stenographers will be forwarded to Washington as a cross section of opinion among American farmers

The committee will close its meeting in Dallas Monday night and go to Birmingham where a similar meeting was scheduled for January 6.

Agriculture – 1937
Improvement of

Alabama.

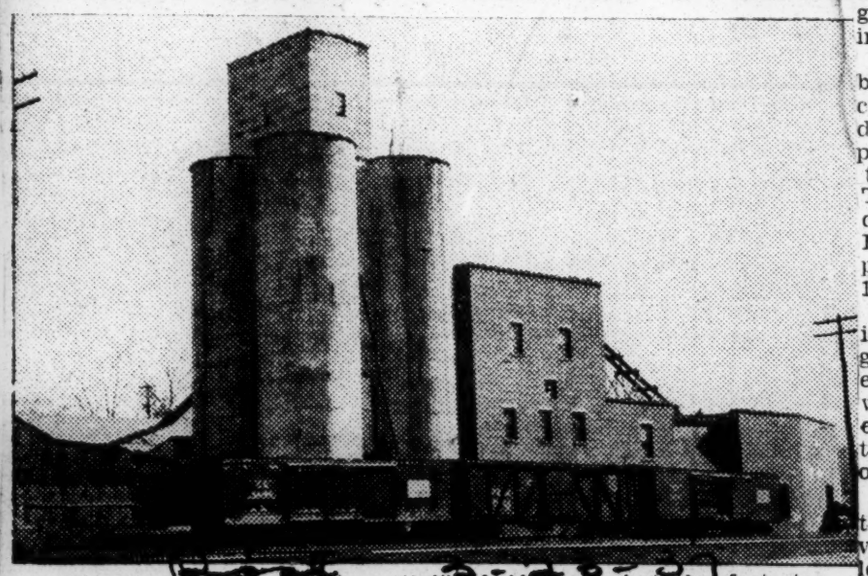
T. C. I. ADDS SEVEN TO AID IN FARM PROGRAM

Birmingham, Ala.

Assistant farm product agents in seven Southeastern states to aid farmers in marketing their products have been employed by the Tennessee Coal, Iron & Railroad Co., Dr. M. F. Jackson, the company's farm product agent, announced today.

Names and addresses of the agents are: Luther Fuller, Birmingham; Paul Orr Aycock, Knoxville; Robert E. Hayes, State College, Miss.; W. Hill Hosch, Decatur, Ga.; Charles D. Kime, Orlando, Fla.; W. G. Booker, Raleigh, N. C.; and Donald D. Whitcomb, Columbia, S. C.

It Will Hold A Lot Of Peanuts



Dothan is the "peanut capital" of Alabama, but the fast-stepping "goober" is processed in several other towns, such as Eufaula, where Bain Peanut Co. plant, shown above, is located. Peanuts are stored in the large concrete containers, and as the market demands, are shelled and shipped to various types of manufacturers.

* * *

Don't Scorn Lowly Peanut; It Is State's No. 3 Crop

And It Isn't A Nut, Either; Instead It's A Legume Which Was Worth $44,150,000 In Alabama Last Year; We Have A Regular 'Goober Belt'

DOTHAN, March 23.—(Speciol.)—Said to have been brought from Africa to America to be fed to slaves aboard ship, the lowly "goober" is now coming into its own as one of the South's and Alabama's major crops.

Parched peanuts have been since slavery days, but not until comparatively recently have the wide uses of the peanut and its oil been recognized by the commercial world.

That's why the goober took its position as third crop in value in Alabama in 1936. It is outranked only by cotton and corn. The estimated value last year was $44,150,000. Average value per pound was 3.4 cents.

The uses of peanuts are many and varied. The humble "ground pea" gained scientific importance a few years ago when Dr. George Washington Carver, famous Negro scientist of Tuskegee Institute, announced "some wonderful results" had been attained by using peanut oil as a massage compound for treating infantile paralysis victims. The treatment, however has not been established medically.

Peanut oils are used principally as substitutes for vegetable compound and for general cooking. Millions of pounds of peanuts annuary go into candy, and as peanut butter into sandwiches.

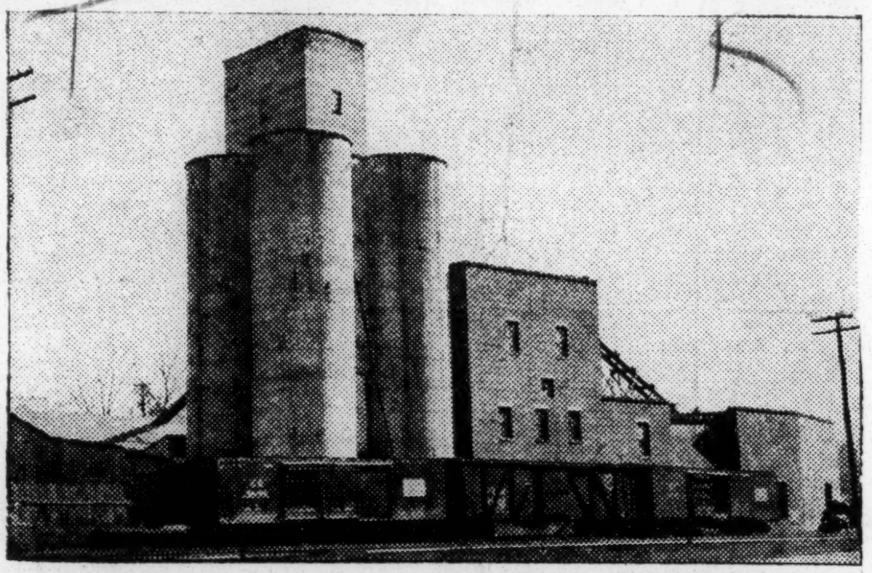
Said by some researchers to have been introduced during the early colonization of America, the peanut did not become commercially important until 1876. Its growth since then has been almost spectacular The "peanut belt," embracing a dozen states from Virginia and Florida to Oklahoma and Texas produced 1,300,540,000 pounds in 1936.

The goober is the cheapest fattening food for hogs that can be grown in Alabama, say agricultural experts. Peanuts can be grown without fertilizer in most Southeastern states, and hogs may be turned into fields to harvest their own peanuts.

The peanut is not a member of the nut family, but a legume. Its vine is excellent for hay and when left in the field serves as a good soil builder. The peanut belongs to the bean family and differs from other species of beans and peas primarily in that it grows to maturity beneath the ground.

BIRMINGHAM ALA. POST
MAR. 23, 1937 M25

It Will Hold A Lot Of Peanuts



Dothan is the "peanut capital" of Alabama, but the fast-stepping "goober" is processed in several other towns, such as Eufaula, where Bain Peanut Co. plant, shown above, is located. Peanuts are stored in the large concrete containers, and as the market demands, are shelled and shipped to various types of manufacturers.

* * *

Don't Scorn Lowly Peanut; It Is State's No. 3 Crop

And It Isn't A Nut, Either; Instead It's A Legume Which Was Worth $44,150,000 In Alabama Last Year; We Have A Regular 'Goober Belt'

DOTHAN, March 23.—(Speciol.)—Said to have been brought from Africa to America to be fed to slaves aboard ship, the lowly 'goober" is now coming into its own as one of the South's and Alabama's major crops.

Parched peanuts have been a popular delicacy in the South since slavery days, but not until had been attained by using peanut comparatively recently have the oil as a massage compound for wide uses of the peanut and its oil treating infantile paralysis victims been recognized by the commercial The treatment, however has not world. been established medically.

That's why the goober took its Peanut oils are used principally position as third crop in value in as substitutes for vegetable com-Alabama in 1936. It is outranked pound and for general cooking. Mil-only by cotton and corn. The esti- lions of pounds of peanuts annuary mated value last year was $44.150,- go into candy, and as peanut butter 000. Average value per pound was into sandwiches. 3.4 cents.

Said by some researchers to have The uses of peanuts are many been introduced during the early and varied. The humble "ground colonization of America, the peanut pea" gained scientific importance a did not become commercially im-few years ago when Dr. George portant until 1876. Its growth since Washington Carver, famous Negro then has been almost spectacular scientist of Tuskegee Institute, an- The "peanut belt," embracing a nounced "some wonderful results" dozen states from Virginia and Florida to Oklahoma and Texas produced 1,300,540,000 pounds in 1936.

The goober is the cheapest fattening food for hogs that can be grown in Alabama, say agricultural experts. Peanuts can be grown without fertilizer in most Southeastern states, and hogs may be turned into fields to harvest their own peanuts.

The peanut is not a member of the nut family, but a legume. Its vine is excellent for hay and when left in the field serves as a good soil builder. The peanut belongs to the bean family and differs from other species of beans and peas primarily in that it grows to maturity beneath the ground.

Helping Make Alabama Farmlands Produce

FROM THE AIR—The plant of the Standard Chemical Company at Troy unfolds to an imposing length. Established in an important farming section, it has long been one of the leading producers of fertilizers in Alabama. Its plant, as the picture indicates, is a tremendous one and its production is in keeping with its facilities. With the planting season well underway, operation of the Standard Chemical Company's plant has been at capacity and the slacking-off is not yet in sight.

ANNIVERSARY HELD BY NEGRO MARKET

Tuscaloosa, Ala., News
May 23, 1937

Project Started Last Year By County Agents Results In Many Benefits Here

The Tuscaloosa County Negro Curb Market observed its first anniversary Saturday, completing its initial year of operation. Since opening of the market on Saturday, May 23, 1936, it has operated continuously for two days each week, on Wednesdays and Saturdays.

Its influence upon the negro farm families who have taken advantages of its opportunities have been far-reaching and very beneficial, according to persons familiar with the problem of negro farmers in this county.

Through the market hopes have been revived or many farm families and a desire to cooperate in the extension program has been stimulated, sponsors say. The market was initiated through the negro farm agents in this county.

Saturday's market was bigger and better than any held during the past year. It is located at Eighth Street and 23rd Avenue. Repairs, floral displays and other decorations added color to the market yesterday. Many residents of the city and county visited the market during the hours of 6 o'clock to 10 o'clock and a heavy volume of sales was reported.

Auburn Planning To Construct Southern Regional Laboratory

AUBURN, ALA., June 16.—Plans are nearing completion for the construction of a huge regional research laboratory here to serve the states east of the Mississippi and south of the Ohio Rivers, announced Dr. L. N. Duncan, president, Alabama Polytechnic Institute, today upon receipt of blueprints and specifications for the buildings.

"Forty acres of land on which to construct the laboratory have been provided by the Board of Trustees of the Alabama Polytechnic Institute," he said. "The U. S. Bureau of Engineering also has asked for bids and is making plans to let the contracts for construction of the buildings at an early date, probably by the first of July."

Livestock Study Slated

Livestock and poultry diseases and pests and methods of controlling them will be studied at the laboratory, Dr. Duncan said in explaining that "the laboratory is a great thing for Alabama and other states in the southeast. It will enable farmers and livestock producers to solve one of their greatest problems—that of controlling diseases and pests among their livestock and poultry, and will help farmers in carrying out a better balanced farm program by utilizing more livestock in their farming operations," he stated.

The new laboratory will be constructed near the school of veterinary medicine, and its work will be coordinated with that of the veterinary department of the Alabama Polytechnic Institute, states Dr. I. S. McAdory, acting state veterinarian and head of the veterinary school. Officials of the new project also are assured the cooperation of livestock workers of the Alabama Experiment Station and the Extension Service, states Dean M. J. Funchess and P. O. Davis, directors.

Financed By U. S.

The new livestock research work will be financed by the Federal government under the Bankhead bill passed last year providing, in addition to regular support of the agricultural program, for the establishment of regional laboratories in various parts of the country. Immediately following the passage of the bill, Dr. Duncan and other officials of the Alabama Polytechnic Institute worked with federal officials in locating the livestock laboratory here.

In providing the 40 acres of land on which to construct the laboratory and to do research work, members of the Board of Trustees expressed enthusiasm over the new project being located in Alabama. Board members are Governor Graves, Dr. J. A. Keller, Montgomery; H. H. Conner, Eufaula; Victor H. Hanson, Birmingham; Francis W. Hare, Monroeville; T. D. Samford, Opelika; H. D. Merrill, Anniston; C. S. Culver, Gadsden; Paul S. Haley, Jasper; George Blue, Montgomery; R. K. Greene, Greensboro, and Edward A. O'Neal, Florence.

TUSKEGEE GETS NEW INDUSTRY

Will Provide Extra Change For Farmers During Winter Months After Crops Are Harvested

Tuskegee scores another milestone in its steady advance to provide employment for its citizens and to supply the nation with its products, in manufacturing a new commodity, Sassafras Flakes, for the national market. For generations American people have drunk this health-giving beverage prepared from split sassafras roots but never before have these roots been baked and put up in convenient packages as they are being prepared by Harry N. Simms & Sons here at Tuskegee.

After several tests and experiments and conferences with Dr. George W. Carver, internationally famous scientist, this product was placed on the market about the middle of October. These bright and delicious sassafras flakes are made from the roots of red sassfras that grows in abundance here in Macon County and in other sections of the state of Alabama—and are put up in attractive sealed celophanle bags.

The advantage of the flakes over the sassafras roots is that the tea made from the sassafras flakes may be steeped from them by very much the same method as is used in making any other brand of tea. From the flakes the flavor and aroma are brought out to full strength and make a most delightful drink for any meal.

Since Simm's Sassafras Flakes came to the market a month ago with a weekly output of a few dozen packages, the demand has become so great that production had to be increased to an average of 1,000 bags per day. In addition to the stores in Tuskegee and the Greenwood community, Simm's Sassafras Flakes are handled in Montgomery by the A. & P. Stores and Silvers 5 & 10c Store; in Birmingham it is distributed by Hamilton & Robinson Distributors. The product is also on sale in Union Springs, Ala.; West Point, Columbus and Atlanta, Ga.

At present from eight to ten persons residing in Macon County are employed in the preparation and distribution of these tea flakes, and the number employed will be increased in proportion to increased demands and sales. Following the approval of Simm's Sassafras Flakes this week by the Alabama State Pure Foods and Drugs Department in Montgomery, Ala., this tea is being placed on sale in other cities in Georgia, Florida, Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas, Tennessee, Arkansas, Oklahoma and in cities in other states throughout the country.

The success of the product means employment for more people in Tuskegee, and extra change beneath the purse strings of many of Macon County's farmers who will dig the roots during the Winter and bring them in to the manufacturers. All of this means more money coming into Tuskegee and greater prosperity for the entire county.

Tuskegee should be proud of this new industry and do everything possible to help it grow to be one of the best going concerns in the country. The Simm's Sassafras Flakes are manufactured at the Motor Mart just outside the city on the Atlanta Highway. Trial packages may be purchased at any of the grocery stores in Tuskegee and in the Greenwood community.

Roanoke, Ala., Leader
December 29, 1937

TRAINED NEGRO MAKES FARM PAY

Vocational Ag. Teacher Practices What He Teaches

Well over ten years ago a Negro boy started working for us doing jobs about the house. He was such a good worker and knew so well how to do the tasks assigned to him that other families made use of him. For six years he attended Randolph Training School, supporting himself all the time. Then he went to Tuskegee Institute and studied agriculture, earning his way by working in the school dairy and on the farms.

Sunday evening Theodore Casselberry came by to pay us a visit, as is his custom whenever he comes home. He now has a 12-month job teaching vocational agriculture in Pickens County. During the summer months he travels over the county to inspect the projects of his students. He reports that last year he raised three bales of cotton, 50 bushels of corn, and 15 bushels of potatoes on the side. Now he has large flock of chickens for which he already has promise of a market when they reach the age of two months. at which time he expects them to average two pounds. In addition, this young man has a year-round garden. Vocational agriculture, properly practiced, will prove its worth.

Agriculture - 1937
& Improvement of.

Arkansas.

Atlanta, Ga. Constitution
March 1, 1937

GOOD WORK IN ARKANSAS

In view of the unpleasant notoriety thrust upon Arkansas in 1935 and 1936 by reports of revolts of sharecroppers, alleged peonage cases and supposed activities of Communists in stirring underprivileged tillers of the soil to revolt against landlords, it is gratifying to observe that there is another and much brighter picture relating to agriculture in Arkansas.

Whatever may be the attitude of the older generation of farmers, the boys and girls of the state are preparing themselves for modern farming methods when the time comes for them to take over and carry forward toward independence on the farm.

W. J. Jernigan, state 4-H Club agent, reports that the rural boys and girls of Arkansas contributed approximately half a million dollars to the support of themselves and their families last year through increased participation in approved practices for agriculture and homemaking. Club membership reached an all-time high with 53,706 members, representing a gain of 11,919 over the 1935 enrollment, and 24,447 for the past three years. There were 1,155 clubs for white members and 230 for negroes.

The 41,776 white boys and girls carried 63,166 demonstrations which covered the many phases of homemaking and agriculture; 35,572 demonstrations were completed, having a value of $474,163.44. Jernigan said records established during the year in 4-H Club work show members are setting high standards in the efficient and profitable production of crops and livestock.

Agriculture in every southern state is undergoing a change for the betterment of industry as a whole, and much of this improvement is due to the fact that the boys and girls who began to study farming and homemaking under competent instructors in the various clubs that existed before the 4-H Club national movement came into being, are now among the mature farmers and homemakers of today, and they are carrying forward with confidence toward independence on the farm.

"No Longer a Sharecropper" Is Proud Boast of Champion Tenant Planter To Prosper

Tired of Bare Existence, One-Crop Farming, Arkansan Overcomes Difficulties Through Aid of Commercial Appeal's Live at Home

"After all these years, I am no longer a sharecropper."

And "all these years" means 22 seasons of toil and poverty in drafty sharecropper cabins and one-crop farming to H. L. Majure and his family. Mr. Majure "got tired of being called a tenant and done something about it."

Today this sturdy determined 48-year-old farmer of Poplar Grove, Ark., is the 1937 champion Plant To Prosper tenant farmer of the Mid-South—winner of The Commercial Appeal's Plant To Prosper tenant sweepstakes award of $250; the proud owner of a deed to 40-acres of fertile land; victor over poverty and some 5000 tenant farmers of Arkansas, Tennessee, Mississippi and Missouri in the live-at-home competition.

After 22 years of one-crop farming, of seeing his family looked down upon because they were "just tenants," Farmer Majure on New Year's Day will move into a home which he has erected with his own hands on his own 40-acre farm.

Started From Nothing

Consider his condition, when as a young man of 28 with only a fifth grade education, he found himself with nothing but his experience in one-crop farming. He "had nothing to start with, only what the landlord wanted me to have."

"We managed for some chickens and a cow and we thought that the cow would never fresh and the hens would never lay," he said. "I thought I could eat all the milk and butter the cow gave and all the eggs that the hens would lay.

"For 22 years I toiled as a tenant, renting land, buying on a credit and making a crop and often paying out all I made to my merchant and landlord for rent and furnish.

"During the depression I decided that one-crop farming would never get me anywhere and was thinking of something to do to bring in more money on my farm. So I entered the Plant To Prosper Competition, which helped me break away from this one-crop system of farming and achieve a farm of my own."

Year-Round Income

And here is what Mr. Majure did: He decided that he should have some income. Where he formerly had one crop of cotton with money only in the Fall, he now has 27 sources of income. They include corn, spinach, mustard greens, turnip greens, English peas, snap beans, lima beans, crowder peas, speckled peas, blue hull peas, tomatoes, cucumbers, sweet corn, watermelons, cantaloupes, squash, clay peas, soy beans, carrots, sweet and Irish potatoes, milk, butter, chickens, eggs, meat and cotton.

Because of diversification, Mr. Majure did not have to borrow money. He had cash coming in every week. He also grew enough fruit and vegetables so that Mrs. Majure and his 17-year-old daughter Louise could proserve plenty for the family needs during the non-producing season.

When Mr. Majure learned that he made more money by "living-at-home" he decided that the same would apply to feed for his stock, so he began growing his hay, small grains and corn. And these feeds also were turned into cash through fattening his hogs and cows.

Practiced Conservation

Unlike the general run of tenants, Mr. Majure realized that if he was going to remain in the business of farming he could not permit the soil, even though he did not own it, to lose its fertility. He had not taken this view until he entered the Plant To Prosper Competition.

Lands on which soil depleting crops had been grown were planted in Winter cover crops and soy beans and peas were interplanted with corn. He also rotated his crops. Where there were signs of soil erosion, he stopped the damage with brush or terracing. He did this because he knew that poor land produced a poor living.

Farmer Majure also sodded 12 acres in bermuda, lespedeza and hop clover for a permanent pasture. The result of his soil conservation program has been this: "When I moved on this farm, I am sure that it had not been making more than a fourth of a bale of cotton to the acre; this year I am picking 14 bales from 20 acres."

$97 For Food

Mr. and Mrs. Majure almost have reached the ultimate in their "live-at-home" program. With their family of six, two boys, Robert, 16, and Carl, 11, and two girls, Louise, 17, and Cecil, 13, they have spent only $97 for food not raised on their farm.

"And we lived good," said Mr. Majure. "We growed all we could on our place and if we could have growed our sugar, coffee, flour and salt, I expect we wouldn't spent nothing on store bought stuff."

And he'll back up that statement. In his pantry, Mr. Majure has enough food to start a small store. He has 96 cans of beef, 34 quarts of pork, 32 quarts of tomato pickles, 28 quarts of sweet potatoes, 24 quarts of string beans, 33 quarts of English peas, 80 quarts of blackberries, five quarts of jam, 11 quarts of carrot honey, 47 quarts of cucumbers, and many quarts of beets, squash, corn, apples, lima beans, tomato juice, carrots, peaches, muscadine and plum preserves.

More Food Preserved

But the Majure famiy's food supply does not consist only of canned foods—that would not give them a balanced diet. They have 100 pounds of white peas, 15 pounds of dried lima beans, many cans of molasses, peanuts and popcorn, 1200 pounds of clay peas, 10 tons of hay, a crib full of corn, 100 bushels of sweet potatoes, plenty of Irish potatoes, pumpkins and another beef to can for the Winter. Mr. Majure almost forgot that three hogs weighing more than 200 pounds each, will be killed and cured to furnish ham, bacon and ribs for the family.

Mr. Majure, in addition to making a good living, has made money this year. His gross income from his 93-acre farm is $2301.87, with a net gain of $1217.25. And that does not include the $147.40 spent for home furnishing and equipment $101 for education, $26 for medical care, $20 for recreation, $5 to charity, livestock purchased for $125 and machinery valued at $68, which he bought this year.

This Majure family has awakened to the possibilities that the farm offers and is taking advantage of them.

Ambitius for Family

"Planting to Prosper has given me a larger income, has caused me to be a dissatisfied tenant and has put in me a desire to have a home," he said. "Our children are growing up to where they are going to have company of some kind, somewhere. This made me more dissatisfied with tenant farming because I want a place where they can have the right kind of company.

"Striving to meet the goals of the Plant to Prosper Competition has had its effect on the children because they have worked harder in school and in their 4-H Club projects. I have bought them a typewriter to help them along also. The newspaper's competition has helped me buy a farm more than anything else. When I returned from the contest dinner last year I resolved that a change was coming about."

And it did. Mr. Majure called a "council of war" and outlined their battle against poverty and tenancy to attain home ownership.

Improved Home

There were many angles to consider and they forgot none. About the home, they moved the wood pile from the front yard, calcimined the walls of their home, planted shrubbery and flowers, built fences, a chicken house, cabinets for the kitchen and made a three-way room out of a bedroom.

And the Majure children had a hand in all of it. All helped about the home and helped make the crops, even to picking cotton. They had outside activities also. Robert won a registered pig for his 4-H Club cotton project; Louise won a trip to Fayetteville for her poultry project and first place in the county in dress making; Cecil, who is 13, won a blue ribbon for dress making and Carl has made excellent progress in his pig project in the 4-H Club.

Mrs. Majure, who deserves as much credit for the success of her family as her husband, organized a Home Demonstration Club and was elected vice president of it.

In September Mr. Majure contracted to buy a 40-acre farm. It is too small to make a living for his family, but he can pay for it and rent additional land. So that's what he's going to do.

He wanted to plant cover crops on part of his new farm, but could not get possession until New Year's Day. The old ramshackle cabin on the place was even worse than his tenant home, so Mr. Majure got permission to wreck the cabin and has almost completed his new five-room two-story frame home.

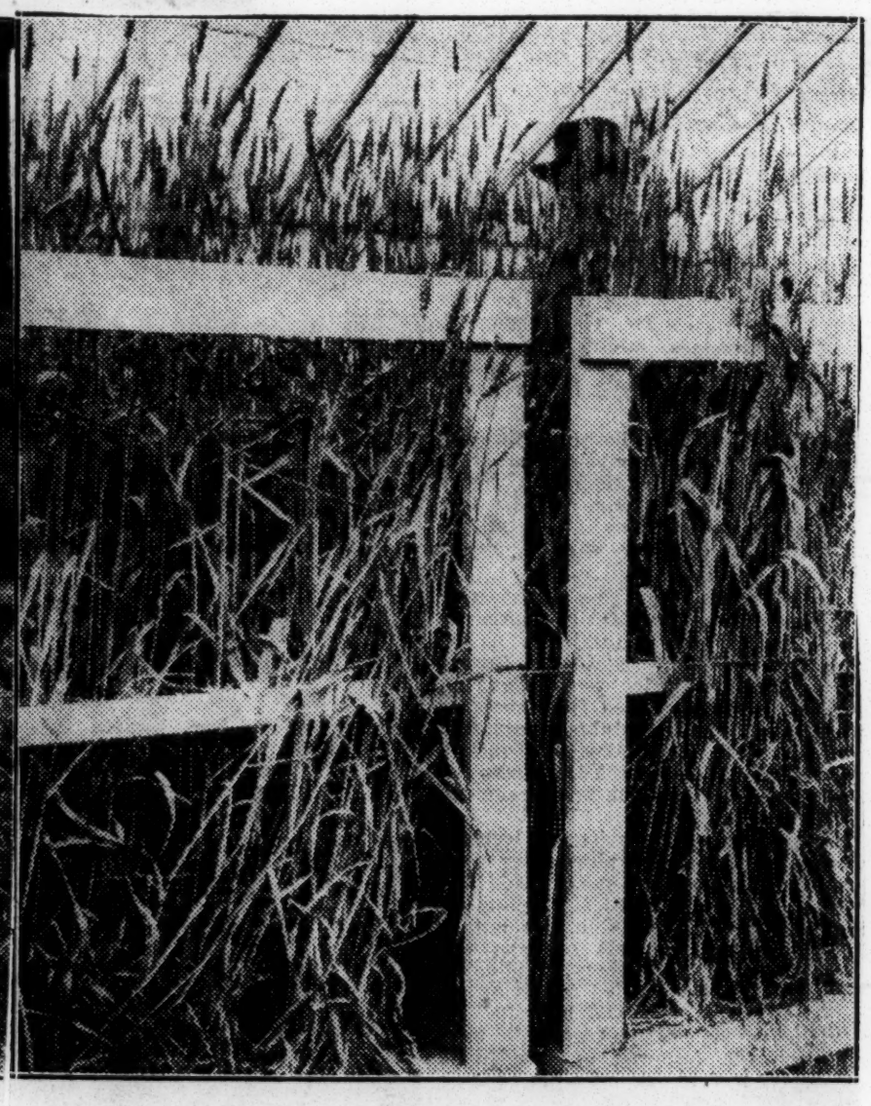
He'll be proud of it, too, because it is his own work.

Agriculture - 1937
Improvement of

California

Crops That Surpass Those Grown on Any Farm Are Produced Without Soil by University of California Scientist

Here is one of the first steps in growing crops without soil. A gardener sows corn on the top of a tank which contains excelsior and a solution of all the mineral food a plant needs to develop. The seeds are merely held in place by the excelsior—their roots reach down and draw nourishment from the electrically heated solution.



Here is a stand of wheat grown by this method. The developer, Dr. W. F. Gericke, of the University of California, is almost invisible as he stands behind the luxuriant growth. The yield is high and is said to be of a better quality than produced by the orthodox method of cultivation. Nothing is left to chance by this method.

Agriculture - 1937
16 Improvement of.

Farmers' Home Corporation.

To End Farm Tenancy

The Farmers' Home Corporation is to be set up in the Department of Agriculture at Washington; and its purpose is to reduce farm tenancy and share-cropping. It is meant to help worthy farmers to buy their own homes, and to own the lands they cultivate. Even the day-laborer is supposed to be able to borrow some of the government funds if he can make the proper showing as to character and intelligence.

The bill has been passed by both houses of congress, and it is said the president will sign it in due time. It bears evidence of more cautiousness than the government has been in the habit of displaying in spending money. Only ten million dollars will be available for the corporation in the first year. This sum is to be allocated among the different states according to relative needs. The next year the sum available will be twenty-five million dollars, and each year thereafter, fifty million dollars.

Another precaution is that each client, or accepted applicant, is to be given a one-year trial. A farm will be provided for him, and if he satisfies a local committee of three men that he can be a farmer on his own responsibility the property will be sold to him, to be paid for in forty years at three per cent interest.

The government has learned some valuable lessons through its resettlement experiments. Georgia has several of the projects, and two or three of them seem to be making good in a big way. But good supervision seems to be the secret of their success. Good supervision might not do the whole job, however. The destruction of the big interest pyramid has much to do with it. Georgia has some of the finest farms and best farmers in the nation; and yet her average makes a poor picture. The farmers cannot enrich warehousemen, supply merchants, bankers, mortgage loan companies, and at the same time build fine estates for themselves. The soils of Georgia will produce anything that any temperate zone could produce. As to climate, and soil, and intelligence, Georgia can take first rank among the states, but she became a slave to the usurer. The farmer was ruined by the big interest he had to pay, and that he will always have to pay if he tries to raise one crop instead of several crops.

Tenantry would not have suffered in Georgia if the landlord and the tenant could have agreed on plans for building up property. They allowed their interests to become antagonistic; and the tenant abused the land instead of properly using it. The share-cropper was the most favored of all of the farm workers. He was not obliged to have a dollar to set himself up in business. He could even get advances from the landlord to feed himself, and at the end of the year he could claim half the crops. If he wanted to work he did so, if he wanted to loaf he dared anybody to criticise him. If he went away empty-handed he would be as well-off as he was when he came. He had everything to gain and nothing to lose. The philosophy of many of them is best expressed in the old plantation song, "So I'm a'living, I don't care." The landlord took all of the risks.

The Farmers' Home Corporation is well intended, and will receive the best wishes of all friends of the farmer.

TENANCY SET-UP TO START SLOWLY

Only 500 Counties Will Benefit During First Year of Federal Plan

WASHINGTON, Aug. 8 (AP).—The agriculture department indicated today that only 1,000 to 2,000 tenants can hope to become farm owners during the first year of the new federal tenancy program.

With $10,000,000 to spend for this purpose during the first year and an estimated 3,000,000 tenants, farm laborers and sharecroppers, department officials have decided to limit operations to 500 counties. This is less than one-six of the more than 3,000 counties in the United States.

This limitation is necessary for the first year, officials said, to hold administartive costs within limits prescribed by congress. County committees of three farmers will select the tenants and the land to be purchased by government loans.

One official said the average rural county has about 400 tenants, half of whom are expected to apply for government loans to buy farms. He said the farmer committees face a big task of interviewing these applicants, selecting the few who can qualify the first year, and then inspecting and appraising the land that will be purchased.

In the corn belt, where tenancy has been rapidly expanding in recent years, officials said, a minimum of about $10,000 will be required to obtain a farm of 120 acres and buildings and equipment that will enable the tenant to succeed.

The cost may be much less in the south where farms are smaller and buildings and equipment less expensive.

After the tenant has been established, the officials asserted, supervision will be necessary to protect the government investment and aid the prospective land owner.

A staff of eight persons in Washington will supervise the tenancy program, by utilizing the present field supervision staff of the Resettlement Administration.

DEBT-FREE FARMS URGED FOR TENANTS

Representative Peterson Is Author of Proposed Substitute Measure.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 3.—(AP)—The house public lands committee proposed today as a substitute for the administration's farm tenancy program a bill by Representative Hugh Peterson, Ailey (Ga.) Democrat, seeking to settle farm families on debt-free land.

The committee's report said any system of farm mortgage loans "will only add fuel to the flames." The administration tenant bill providing for mortgage loans as a means of making landowners out of farm tenants, was enacted at this session.

Hits Farm Mortgage.

"The farm mortgage is the instrument by which the farm family has been reduced to poverty," it said. "And it is futile to think that government mortgage loans can or will accomplish any more in solving the farmer's problems than have mortgage loans by private agencies."

The Peterson bill would authorize the general land office to purchase liens on farm property. That suitable for cultivation would be divided into homesteads and conveyed to farm families free of debt.

$100,000,000 Appropriation.

The appropriation, although not actually provided in the bill, would be limited to $100,000,000 annually for the first three years and $500,000,000 annually thereafter.

"Government loans only lead to federal supervision and dictatorship," said the committee in recommending Peterson's plan. "Homesteads free of debt, provided by the government, is the only way out."

Farm Security Administration.

Agriculture—1937
Improvement of.

NO NEGRO NAMED ON
FARM TENANCY BOARD

Press Service of the N.A.A.C.P.

Washington, September 3.- The three directors of the new Farmers Home Corporation which will administer the Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenancy Act were appointed by Secretary Henry A. Wallace, September 1, and apparently no consideration was given the proposition of appointing a Negro director. 9-3-37

The new directors are: Dr. Will W. Alexander, former head of the Resettlement Administration, former director of the Southern Interracial Commission at Atlanta, and former president of Dillard university; Dr. O. G. Black, chief of the bureau of agricultural economics; and Harry L. Bone, assistant secretary of agriculture.

New York Times

Because of the large percentage of Negro tenant farmers in the South, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People urged upon Secretary Wallace that a qualified colored man be named to assist in administering the new act. The N.A.A.C.P. pointed out that the provision for local committees to select beneficiaries of the farm tenancy act left the door open for discrimination on the basis of race and color, since colored people in the South have no political power and thus are not able to influence in anyway the selection of these local committees. The association, therefore, urged the appointment of a person in Washington who would be able to see that the benefits were allocated without discrimination.

Colored people generally may take some comfort out of the fact that Dr. Alexander is identified with the new corporation because he is thoroughly familiar with the plight of the Negro farmer in the South and his record shows him to be thoroughly sympathetic with the aspirations of rural southern Negroes.

The N.A.A.C.P. was represented here, however, as believing that Dr. Alexander and the new Farmers Home Corporation could do a much better job if it had the advice and assistance of a competent Negro official. The N.A.A.C.P. message to both Secretary Wallace and President Roosevelt cited the excellent work done by Dr. Henry A. Hunt of the Farm Credit Administration as an example of the usefulness of Negro appointees.

Chattanooga, Tenn. News
October 28, 1937

Tenant Farmers Of State Will Get $416,191

Local Groups Will Select Families For Money Benefits.

WASHINGTON.—(A. P.)—The Farm Security Administration has allocated $416,191 to Tennessee for participation in the $10,000,000 tenant farm purchase program.

The administration estimated Tennessee sharecroppers numbered 50,000.

It said $3,000 would be a "pretty close" estimate of the amount required to finance the purchase and stocking of a family-sized farm for a tenant.

The original allocation, at this rate, could help approximately 140 Tennessee tenants to purchase their farms. The administration has indicated it will favor farm tenants who have demonstrated their ability, have cash for an initial farm payment and who have enough live stock to provide family support.

LOANS TO AID

Sharecroppers, the administration said, would be aided to gain subsistence and make improvements by the Farm Tenancy Act's second phase—the $75,000,000 rehabilitation program. That program, it explained, was designed to provide small loans to place helpless farmers on an income basis.

Experimental tenant farmer purchases, the Administration said, would be made in not more than 300 counties in the country. It estimtaed $500,000 of the first year's $10,000,000 allotment would be absorbed by administrtaive expense.

PLAN ACTION SOON

The Administration said the program was expected to move forward in the next ten days with the appointment of State advisory committees by the Secretary of Labor and the creation of local county advisory committees. The committees will nominate tenant farmers to be financed.

The Security Administration is using 1935 census figures for its calculations. They show 239,387 white and 34,396 colored farm operators in Tennessee. Among the white, there were 118,889 full owners, 19,964 part owners, 472 farm managers and 100,062 tenants, of whom 35,381 were share-croppers.

Among the colored operators, 6,151 were full owners, 1,692 were part owners and 26,545 were tenants, of whom 16,096 were share-croppers.

Tenancy Loans Available Soon

Advertiser

William Elsberry, rehabilitation supervisor of the Farm Security Administration, for this district, said yesterday that tenant purchase loans would be made available in Montgomery County within a short time. The loans are to be made under provisions of the Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act, which allotted Alabama a sum of $615,531 for the first year.

"This country," said Elsberry, "as well as the 24 others designated for Alabama, will be able to make loans to not less than five and to not more than ten farm families according to land costs and as approved by the local Farm Security Advisory Committee. No action can be taken on any application, however, until this local committee has been established and is ready to consider propositions submitted.

"A supply of necessary forms will be rushed to this office in a few days and the business of accepting applications will be started as quickly as possible." 12-1-37

The loans are to be made only to farm tenants, farm laborers, sharecroppers and others who obtain, or who recently have obtained a major portion of their income from farming operations.

WHITES TO CONTROL
$9,500,000 ALLOTED
FOR FARM TENANTS

WASHINGTON, Oct. --(CNA)- Distribution of $9,500,000 among tenants and share croppers for purchases of land under Title 1 of the Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act was announced this week by the Farm Security Administration.

Crusader News Agency

Under present plans, assailed by Negro leaders here as unsatisfactory, applications for loans will be passed on by voluntary county committees of three farmer members. This arrangement means that in the South the members of such committees will be white., in all likelihood big farm owners interested in maintaining a landless, cheap supply of Negro farm labor.

10-18-37 Newyork, Msg.

Allocations in this first expenditure are based by law on farm population and the prevalence of tenancy in the various States and territories. Administrative costs will be limited to $500,000 of the $10,000,000 authorized for the fiscal year.

Region Five, as had been expected, led in the receipt of funds. This is composed of Alabama, Florida, Georgia and South Carolina, and a total of $1,718,322 was distributed to that group.

The next largest amount, $1,591,619, was for Region Four, in which are Kentucky, North Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia and West Virginia, and the third, $1,505,041, went to Region Six, Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi. Texas led all individual States, getting $917,059.

Farmers Will Apply Thru Counties

Loan Application Heads Named

Delivered

ATHENS, Ga.— (SNS) —Colored farmers throughout the state will be interested in the release Saturday of the names of county farm security advisory committeemen to handle loan applications in the rehabilitation and tenant purchase program in Georgia. A total of $635,003 has been provided for the purchase of farms in Georgia, under the direction of R. L. Vansant, white. From five to ten farms in each of the counties, whose names are to follow, will be purchased upon the recommendation of the local committeemen. After the quota of loans has been approved, no additional loans can be made until funds are made available by congress for next year's program, beginning July 1. The Bankhead-Jones act authorized the tenancy loans.

Eligible counties include:

Baldwin: J. L. Sibley, M. E. Webb, and C. R. Torrance.

Bartow: Robert M. Stiles, Alton Parrish, and Julian J. Paulk.

Berrien: L. R. Stallings, L. S. Parirsh, and Julian J. Paulk.

Brooks: W. L. Ingram, L. W. Graham, and T. P. Stanley.

Bulloch: W. H. Smith, Hal Roach, and John Powell.

Bukre: F. M. Cates, John Reese, and Frank Wells.

Chattanooga: W. B. High, H. M. Hawkins, and William Storey.

Cherokee: Dave McClure, Sam McClesky, and John R. Quarles.

Cobb: William L. Chandler, Horace Gantt, and E. Hayden Kemp.

Coffee: C. D. Boggen, A. R. Royal, and Roy Byrd.

Cook. W. R. Thompson, T. J. Thompson, J. Crumpton, and Caulie R. Harris.

Coweta: C. S. Colley, W. M. Stamps, and L. A. Evans.

Dodge, H. H. Burch, W. W. Bond, and W. H. Smith.

Dooly: Erasmus H. Smith, W. R. Jackson, and Howell Porter.

Emanuel: A. L. Brown, J. D. Fields, and R. M. Moore.

Fulton: J. W. Burgess, William Bates, and William Frank Milam.

Gordon: Robert C. Fuller, Thomas W. Malone, and Griffin C. Harris.

Greene: Floyd T. Corry, R. B. Well, and W. A. Champion.

Gwinnett: Ben Boggs, H. H. Hinton, and Paul Mahaffey.

Hall: C. L. Castleberry, C. T. Cantrell, and N. N. Blackstock.

Hanccok: W. J. Hitchcock, A. R. Jernigan, and John D. Gilmore.

Hart: George Dean, D. E. Sadler, and B. F. Seabright.

Henry: C. H. Bowen, J. O. Maddox, and E. M. Fortson.

Jackson: Ernest Brock, J. A. O. Dillon, and W. H. Maley.

Jenkins: I. O. Parker, H. B. Wiggins, and A. S. Newton.

Meriwether: Elmore T. Maun, W. P. Lee, and Royce N. Estes.

Mitchell: John C. Lennard, William J. Sullivan, and Roy Stripling.

Morgan: Floyd C. Newton, Turner [illegible]. Dell, and T. H. Nolen.

Pike: J. C. Collier, W. H. Morris, and O. I. Carter.

Sumter: H. R. McGee, J. C. Pace and C. A. Slappey.

Telfair: H. B. Barnes, L. H Welch, and C. G. Walden.

Terell: C. A. Price, C. P. Johnston, and L. J. Ferguson.

Washington: E. C. Smith, C. H. Trussell, and Harper P. Tucker.

Wilkes: John W. Faning, John O. Haney, and William C. Stribling.

Worth: Jim L. Trammell, W. W. Tison. and John Will Jenkins.

Agriculture — 1937
6
Improvement of

Farm Security Administration.

Farm Tenant Relief And The Resettlement Administration

The start to be made on farm tenant relief is not a very big one, but the program is expected to get under way promptly, and that is a source of satisfaction. A beginning is to be made almost at once on the task of converting tenant farmers and sharecroppers into farm owners. Only last week the farm tenant bill was approved, and the farm administration hopes to have the program under way early in August—and August comes in next week. That is commendable promptness of action.

Tentatively, the name "Farm Security Administration" has been selected for the organization in charge of the farm tenant program. This organization is setting out to help nearly 3,000,000 tenant farmers to become landowners. To accomplish this many years will be required, so perhaps it does not matter greatly that the beginning is to be small, provided it is followed up properly. The important thing now is to get the program started.

For the first year an appropriation of only $10,000,000 is available for the farm tenant program. The second year $25,000,000 will be available, and thereafter $50,000,000 annually, under the present arrangement. If things go satisfactorily in this endeavor, the probability is that the annual appropriations will be increased.

Very properly, the first to receive assistance will be tenant farmers in the Southern and Midwestern states. They are the states having the greatest tenant population and the highest percentage of farm tenancy. In these states the recipients of assistance will be selected largely by county committees of farmers familiar with local conditions.

Undoubtedly, the work of the Resettlement Administration with tenant farmers in the last few years will prove very helpful in getting the farm tenant program off to a prompt start. The Resettlement Administration has laid some of the groundwork for farm tenant aid by its financial assistance to impoverished farm families and by its program of education in farming practices.

There has been a good deal of criticism of the activities and expenditures of the Resettlement Administration, and much of it has been deserved. The fact should not be overlooked, however, that the RA has done some excellent work, particularly in its activities in behalf of rural people. In that sphere of its program the RA has been a very constructive influence. If the work of the RA is justifiable, it is on the strength of what it has done to help poor farm families.

There was published in Sunday's paper a review of the work done by the Resettlement Administration in assisting and educating needy farmers. This review is particularly interesting in connection with the newly authorized tenant program, not only because of its revelation of the fine preparation which the RA has made for farm tenant aid, but also because it shows how much can be done by giving poor and inefficient farmers a little help and instruction. When we read what the RA has accomplished in improving the condition of farm families, our hope of success in the farm tenant program is greatly strengthened. The work of the RA in this respect affords a highly promising augury of success for the tenant aid program.

The RA has helped 25,000 tenant farmers to get on their feet and has instructed them in modern and improved methods of planned farming. Its work necessarily has been experimental. The results of the experiment have justified the endeavor, and they hold forth promise of sound achievement in the farm tenant program.

Many of the "graduates" of the RA's rural rehabilitation loan program will be fit subjects for the tenant aid program because of the advice and semi-compulsory lessons they have received.

Milo Perkins, assistant administrator of the RA, illustrates the success of the rural rehabilitation work by pointing out what has been done in Alabama. In this state the RA made loans to 13,000 tenant farmers. At the time the loans were made the average worth of these tenants was $3.03. Now it is $362.

"Two or three years ago," says Mr. Perkins, "they had little to eat, dressed their children poorly and plowed cows or steers.

"The change in their morale is thrilling. It brings tears to go to one of those homes and see the old man plowing proudly behind his mule, his wife showing off the vegetables she has canned, and the little girls going off to school in gingham dresses."

The RA has taught these farmers to grow other crops besides cotton, to depend on home gardens for much of their table fare, and has taught the farm wives to can fruits and vegetables for the Winter. As a result, the possessions of these families have been increased and their living standards elevated.

What the RA has done with 25,000 tenant farmers the farm tenant program should be able to do with most of the 3,000,000 tenants it seeks to help. It should be able to do even more, in fact.

It is a pity that the Resettlement Administration has not done more of such rural rehabilitation work and less of the costly and in many cases impractical building of homestead projects. The unit cost of the rural rehabilitation work has been comparatively small. The unit cost of the homestead projects has been extremely high in many instances, and ill-conceived in general.

For example, Senator Byrd, of Virginia, recently called attention to the "sinful and absurd waste" of money in some RA homestead projects. At "Tugwelltown," in Maryland, he said, 880 homes are being brought to completion at a unit cost of $16,182. whereas the average value of all homes in American cities is $4,400. The government has already spent $15,000,000 at "Tugwelltown" alone, or 50 per cent more than the entire appropriation for farm tenant aid for the first year. And in the RA project at Hightstown, N. J., the average cost of the 200 dwellings is $20,163, while at Newport News, Va., Negroes are being "resettled" at an average cost of $9,233. Senator Byrd asks how Negroes can ever be expected to pay rent based on such costs, much less acquire the property.

How much better it would have been if this money that has been so unwisely spent in costly homestead projects had been put instead into helping impoverished rural families, and how much farther it would have gone!

Wallace Names Alabama Farm Security Board

Advisory Committee Of Nine Is Received And Accepted By Hudgens

The names of the nine men to serve as the Alabama Farm Security Advisory Committee, appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture, have been received here in a telegram from Washington by R. W. Hudgens, regional director of the Farm Security Administration in Alabama, Georgia Florida and South Carolina.

All of those named are either extensive land-owners, farmers, experts on diversification and farm tenancy or agricultural authorities.

They are: R. E. Cammack, Montgomery, State supervisor of vocational agricultural education; Donald Comer, Birmingham, president of the Avondale Mills; P. O. Davis, Auburn director of the Alabama Extension Service; W. C. Lasseter Birmingham, managing editor of The Progressive Farmer; J. B. McClure Florence, member of the State Cotton Allotment Committee; Elgie Haynes, Huntsville, master farmer; B. H. Lightfoot, Troy, master farmer and Olin Riser, Alpine, master farmer.

The committeemen, nine for each State, are to advise with the Farm Security personnel in connection with the administration of the tenant purchase program under provisions of the Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act, which appropriates $10,000,000 for the 1937-38 fiscal year. They are especially, to adapt national policies to the program of the State and aid in shaping the course of the several services and facilities now provided by the rural rehabilitation division of the FSA.

The machinery to administer the provision of the legislation known as the Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act is provided by the rehabilitation division offices in each county under supervision of district and State administration offices. Julian Brown, State director, will serve as secretary to the Alabama committee.

Formation of the committee is a step in establishing machinery to administer the portion of the Act that sets up a facility to permit purchase by approved farm families of lands of their choice. These lands must be capable of producing sufficient income to afford good living and retire obligations assumed when a loan is made.

The appropriation provided for the first year of this program is $10,000,000, of which $615,531 has been allotted for tenant purchase loans in Alabama.

Farm Security' Agency Takes Over Duties Of RA

WASHINGTON, Sept. 1.—(AP)—Secretary Wallace today junked the resettlement administration, a new deal agency that was created by Rexford G. Tugwell and given some $450,000,000 to spend.

In its place Wallace set up the "Farm Security Administration," which he said wuold concentrate on the new farm tenancy program and other help for needy farmers.

The cabinet member made it plain that the new agency would build no model suburban communities or engage in any extensive construction projects. Those were projects of Tugwell who resigned as resettlement administrator at the start of this year.

Instead, Wallace said, the new name of the farm agency expressed exactly what officials hoped it would accomplish—make the farmer secure on his land.

Some $70,000,000 worth of construction projects started by resettlement under Tugwell will be completed, Wallace said, but there will be no new ones.

Dr. W. W. Alexander, middle-aged former minister who succeeded Tugwell as resettlement chief, was named administrator of the new agency.

Complying with orders of Congress, Wallace also appointed directors of a Farmers' Home Corporation. This corporation will act as legal instrument in the tenancy program, an effort to convert farm tenants into land owners through Federal loans.

Alexander, Harry L. Brown, assistant secretary of agriculture, and Dr. A. G. Black, chief of the department's economists, were named directors of the new corporation.

Wallace took the land buying and land development activities of resettlement away from the new agency and placed them under Dr. Black's bureau of agricultural economics.

He selected Dr. L. C. Gray, veteran land use expert who served both the department and resettlement, as chief of the land division in the bureau.

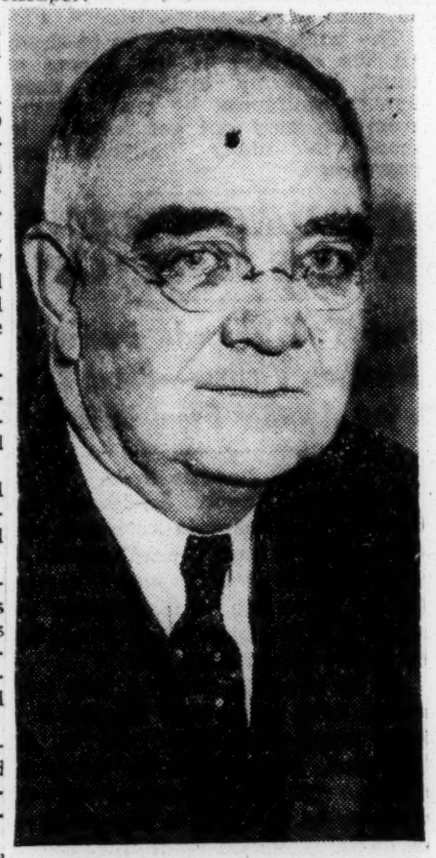
Congress provided $20,000,000 to start the new tenancy program. Half of this will be used for loans to enable an estimated 2,500 tenants to become land owners. The remainder will purchase some 8,000,000 acres of poor crop land that will be retired.

The farm security administration will handle the tenant loans and also a general loan and grant program formerly operated by resettlement. Congress provided $75,000,000 for this rehabilitation work.

Much interest was stirred here by an announcement in New York that one of Rexford Tugwell's most ambitious "model communities," Greenbelt in nearby Maryland, will be taken over by an organization inspired by Edward A. Filene, Boston merchant, and operated as a cooperative.

Greenbelt has been a center of controversy. Critics have charged that relief funds were spent extravagantly to build the model houses, community center, markets, and other buildings designed for 885 families.

Advocates of the Tugwell idea have replied that experimental construction is necessarily more costly and that future communities could be built cheaper.



Times Wide World

PROMOTED BY WALLACE

Will W. Alexander

WALLACE ENDS RA; SETS UP NEW UNIT

Farm Security Administration Takes Over Resettlement Work, With Same Heads

TENANT AID TO BE BIG AIM

Program Opens Way to Help Them Buy Land and to Retire Submarginal Areas

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 1.—The Resettlement Administration became the Farm Security Administration today, and Secretary Wallace announced that the agency, under the new name, would administer the Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenancy Act.

In executive orders changing the name of the agency, Secretary Wallace designated Will W. Alexander, Resettlement Administrator, as administrator of the Farm Security Administration, and Dr. L. C. Gray, assistant Resettlement Admiinstrator, as assistant chief of the agency in charge of the land utilization program.

Pursuant to the Bankhead-Jones Act, Mr. Wallace appointed Mr. Alexander and Dr. A. G. Black, chief of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, with Harry L. Brown, assistant Secretary of Agriculture, as directors of the Farmers Home Corporation, which will be set up.

This act authorized the Secretary of Agriculture to lend $100,000,000 to farm tenants to help them buy farms, and a like amount for retirement of submarginal lands.

Mr. Wallace explained that resettlement and construction projects of the Resettlement Administration were being completed rapidly, and that future activities of that agency could not be described accurately by the word "resettlement."

He said the model suburban resettlement projects such as Greenbelt (called Tugwelltown), near Washington, and those near Milwaukee and Cincinnati, would be completed soon and would be administered by the Farm Security Administration.

In his order Mr. Wallace explained that the revamping of the Resettlement Administration would bring together in a single agency the various functions relating to development of land utilization and conservation and tenant aid programs.

"The purpose," said Mr. Wallace, "is to bring together in a single bureau the research, planning, service and administrative functions which relate to the formulation and development of a program of land conservation and land utilization, as that program is defined in the Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act. Heretofore there has been inadequate coordination of the various types of economic planning which bear upon such a land program.

"Title III of the Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act directs the Secretary 'to develop a program of land conservation and land utilization, including the retirement of lands which are submarginal or not primarily suitable for cultivation, in order thereby to correct maladjustments in land use, and thus assist in controlling soil erosion, reforestation, preserving natural resources, mitigating folods, preventing impairment of dams and reservoirs, conserving surface and subsurface moisture, protecting the watersheds of navigable streams, and protecting the public lands, health, safety and welfare.'"

RA Staff Here Remains Intact In New Agency

Security Administration Will Carry Out Farm Tenant Act Provisions

R. W. Hudgens, formerly director of the fifth district, Resettlement Administration, with headquarters here, and now regional director of the various agencies grouped under the newly created Farm Security Administration, yesterday issued a statement explaining the duties of the new Federal agency following receipt of instructions from Washington.

The statement of several days ago that the services to rural people formerly rendered by the Resettlemen Administration would be continued and that the RA personnel and organization would be absorbed fully by the Farm Security Administration were verified.

In explaining the duties and scope of the Farm Security Administration work, Mr. Hudgens said:

"The scope and purposes of the Farm Security Administration will include the guidance and loan facilities of rural rehabilitation, farm debt adjustment, completion and operation of resettlement projects, and setting up of machinery to permit the purchase of farms under the provisions of the Bankhead-Jones farm tenant act.

For Tenant Farmers

"The Bankhead-Jones farm tenant act, recently passed by Congress and signed by the President, established new Government machinery for coordinating aid to low-income farmers. The bill is divided into four main parts. The first part recommends appropriation of money and outlines methods by which tenant farmers and others will be assisted in purchasing farms.

"The second part provides for an organization to make rehabilitation loans, much as the RA has been doing in the past. Under the third title provisions are made for the purchase of submarginal lands, and appropriation of funds for this purpose is recommended.

"The final subdivision creates an agency to be known as the Farmers Home Corporation for carrying out the purposes of the act and defines its functions, powers, and personnel. The law names the secretary of agriculture as the administrative head of the whole program and empowers him in various ways to make the measure effective.

"Title One, the part which deals with providing means for tenants and others to buy farms, gave the bill its name. This portion of the law marks a new and broader approach to the problem of stabilizing the farmer's occupancy of the land he cultivates, with the underlying thought that ownership will create a greater incentive to protect the land from impairment by erosion and depletion of soil fertility by unwise farming practices, and will provide more security of tenure. In the long run this greater security should make for better incomes and higher standards for the farmer and his family."

Persons Benefited

Persons eligible for loans are defined as farm tenants, farm laborers, sharecroppers, and other individuals who obtain, or who recently obtained, the major portions of their incomes from farming operations. Only citizens of the United States may receive loans, and preference will be given to married farmers or those who have dependents. Where practicable special consideration is to be given to persons able to make an initial down payment, or persons who have livestock and farm implements that they can use in the farming operations financed by the loans.

County committees, to be named by the secretary of agriculture, cooperating with the authority designated in each county by the Farm Security Administration, will make land appraisals and select families from the lists of loan applicants.

Terms of repayment will be agreed upon between borrowers and the Government under an installment plan, with 40 years as the maximum period for loans to run. Interest is set at three per cent on the unpaid balance, or amortization schedules may be worked out for retirement of the principal and interest at that rate. Contracts will contain provisions to protect the Government's investment, such as obligation of the borrowers to keep the property in repair and to pursue good farming practices.

The land utilization division of the former Resettlement Administration, headed by Dr. L. C. Gray, has been taken over by the bureau of agricultural economics of the Department of Agriculture. Dr. A. G. Black is chief of this bureau.

Florida

Agriculture—1937
6
Improvement of

Marianna, Fla., Times Courier
September 21, 1937

Negro Farm Marketing Organizations Making Plans For Coming Year

Tallahassee, Fla. — Cooperative marketing organizations among Negro farmers throughout Florida are making plans for 1938, and have received inspiration and information through recent visits by state officials of their groups and representatives of the State Agricultural Extension Service.

A series of meetings was held in important agricultural areas during the past two weeks by A. A. Turner, Negro district agent with the Extension Service, and local county agents. The sessions were attended by J. T. Hamilton of Seffner, president of Florida Farmers' Cooperative Associations, and G. D. Rogers of Tampa, chairman of the board of directors.

Local associations are chartered under the laws of Florida, and operte with cooperation from the State Marketing Bureau and State Agriculturl Extension Service.

The recent meetings were held to assist in plans for the next year and help improve conditions among Negro farmers and communities.

Ocala, Fla., Evening Star
September 25, 1937

Negroes Make Plans For 1938 Marketing

Tallahassee, Sept. 25—Co-operative marketing organizations among Negro farmers throughout Florida are making plans for 1938, and have received inspiration and information through recent visits by state officials of their groups and representatives of the State Agricultural Extension Service.

A series of meetings was held in important agricultural areas during the past two weeks by A. A. Turner, Negro district agent with the Extension Service, and local county agents. The sessions were attended by J. T. Hamilton of Seffner, president of Florida Farmers' Co-operative associations and G. D. Rogers of Tampa, chairman of the board of directors.

Local associations are chartered under the laws of Florida, and operate with co-operation from the State Marketing Bureau and the State Agricultural Extension Service.

The recent meetings were held to assist in plans for the next year and help improve conditions among Negro farmers and communities.

Jacksonville Fla. Times-Union
November 4, 1937

Negro Farmers Over Floridia Make Progress

Federal Soil Conservation Official Discloses Attainments in Cooperative Organization.

Special to Times-Union.

TALLAHASSEE, Nov. 3.—That the negro farmers of Florida have made progress in co-operative organization, was disclosed in a statement by J. P. Davis, head field officer, Soil Conservation Program Southern Region, in conference with the Florida delegation of farmers and farm agents attending the eighth annual conference of the National Federation of Colored Farmers in Forsyth, Ga., the last week.

The delegation of farmers from Florida was sent at the request of Gov. Fred P. Cone through the office of J. F. Williams, State supervisor, Vocational Edu:taion in Agriculture, passed on to A. A. Turner, district agent of farm-demonstration work among negroes of the Florida Agricultural and Mechanical College, Tallahassee.

Accompanying Turner was, J. E. Granberry of Marianna, vice president, Florida Farmers' Co-operative Association; C. L. Turner of the Agricultural and Mechanical College, Tallahassee, secretary, Florida Farmers Co-operative Association; and Robert Carter of Quincy, president, Gadsden Farmers' Co-operative Association. F. E. Pinder of Gainesville, Farm Agent of Alachua County accompanied eight farmers from that county and one from Putnam County. Five Florida counties were represented.

The speakers included officials and special agents from the Agricultural Department, Washington, D. C., and the State of Georgia, whose addresses contered around the financial condition of negro farmers, to the end that they might increase their earning capacity through conserving the soil, improving their seed varieties and breeds of livestock and poultry. Quicker results, they contended would be attained through organized co-operative methods of diversified production, grading, packing, shipping and marketing of farm products and purchasing of farm supplies.

An exhibit of Flako Brand Cane Syrup, a uniform quality product of the Florida Farmers' Co-operative Association, was displayed with the exhibit of farm products and home industries from the 15 States represented and won praise of the visitors. P. E. Blakeman, breeder of Hampshire hogs of Columbus, Ohio, was given a pint of this syrup which he said, would be given the governor of Ohio, upon his return to the "Buckeye State" The Florida delegation, said Turner, "was greatly inspired and encouraged through the wholesome contacts, made at this meeting." He added that the negro farmers' cooperatives of the State will be pleased to know E. A. Miller, assistant director, Soil Conservation Service, Washington, who was the principal speaker at this meeting, authorized J. P. Davis, his assistant, to be present at the special meeting of the board of directors of the Florida Farmers' Co-operative Association at Fessenden Academy, Friday, November 12, at 10 A. M This meeting is of special interest to negro farmers and will be attended by representatives from the Bureau of Agricultural Economics Extension Service, Gainesville.

Quincy, Fla., Times
November 25, 1937

NEGRO FARMERS MAKE COOPERATIVE PROGRESS

Tallahassee, Fla. — Progress made by negro farmers of Florida in cooperative organization was given praise recently by J. P. Davis, head field officers of the soil conservation program for the Southern region, it is said by A. A. Turner, negro district agent with the State Agricultural Extension Service. Davis addressed the eighth annual conference of the National Federation of Colored Farmers at Forsyth, Ga.

Speakers from the United States Department of Agriculture and from Georgia declared that organized cooperative methods which maintain diversified production, grading, packing, shipping and marketing of farm products and purchasing of farm supplies will aid negro farmers to increase their earning capacity. The negroes were urged to conserve their soils, plant improved seeds and varieties, and raise good quality livestock and poultry.

Agriculture—1937
6
Improvement of.

General

Cotton Picker Robot Eyed As Labor Threat

Advertiser

It's Too Costly Yet For General Use But May Displace 500,000

12-19-37

The mechanical cotton picker in its present stage of development is not likely to take the Cotton Belt by storm although there is a possibility of improvements which may, within the next five or ten years, displace upwards of a half million cotton pickers in the South, according to a report received by A. P. Morgan, Jr., State administrator of the Works Progress Administration.

The report, entitled "Changes in Farm Power and Equipment—Mechanical Cotton Picker" was transmitted by Corrington Gill, assistant WPA administrator and director of the Division of Research, Statistics and Records for the WPA. It is one of a series of reports on changes in technology and labor requirements in the United States since 1909.

The Works Progress Administration, Mr. Morgan explained is naturally interested in employment and unemployment trends, since the organization throughout the nation constitutes a vast reservoir of able-bodied unemployed men and women, with a constant overflow of workers to private jobs and an inflow of others who have become destitute.

The chief obstacle to early widespread use of the present mechanized pickers is the cost.

Picking Cost High

The experts have estimated that it would cost $1.65 per 100 pounds to pick cotton on land that yields 300 pounds of lint to the acre, when the overhead, waste, operating expenses, and other factors are taken into consideration.

Following are the high points of the report's evaluation for the 1936 machine, upon which the study was based:

The single-row machine would make three pickings a year on 80 acres.

The early models would last only five years.

Five per cent of the lint and seed would be left in the field.

The market value of the cotton picked would be lowered 12 per cent by trash and discoloration.

The overhead of the mechanical picker was assumed to amount to $3.62 an acre.

The operating cost based on 60 cents per hour for the tractor and 30 cents an hour for each of two operators are set at $4.80 an acre.

Loss In Field

On land yielding 300 pounds of lint cotton an acre the loss resulting from 5 per cent of cotton left in the field would thus amount to $1.80 at 12 cents a pound.

In addition an estimated loss of 30 pounds of seed at $35 a ton amounts to 52 cents an acre.

The loss from lowered value of the recovered 285 pounds of lint cotton, because of trash and discoloration, is estimated at 12 per cent, or an additional $4.10 an acre.

This amounts to a total cost of $14.84 an acre charged to the mechanical cotton picker.

At a ratio of thre to one by weight between seed and lint cotton the cost of machine picking then would be $1.65 per 100 pounds of seed cotton.

Based On Experiments

It was emphasized that the report was based on experiments with pickers operating in 1936. The study was made by agricultural economists and engineers and is based upon a canvass of available information and first hand observations of the experimental mechanical pickers in 1936.

Concerning the probable future development of a more efficient two-row machine, the report adds:

"An improved two-row, twice-over machine having a longer life and requiring only one operator might lower the cost of mechanical picking to around 65 cents per 100 pounds if the amount of cotton left in the field could be reduced to 3 per cent and the loss in value from lowered quality to 8 per cent."

12-19-37

The report estimates that it will require several years to develop such an improved machine, and that in such an event half the nation's cotton acreage may be involved in 10 years, throwing a maximum of 2,000,000 hand workers out of employment during the picking season of about 30 work days. It may be expected, however, that a displacement of only a half million pickers within the next five to ten years is more likely, the report stated.

Menace To Laborers

Commenting on the report, Asst. Administrator Gill said: "Since agricultural labor is excluded from the benefits of the State unemployment insurance laws, any displacement of cotton farm tenants and sharecroppers that may result from the mechanization of cotton picking will be of immediate concern to agencies dealing with problems of economic security and relief.

"The tenancy and sharecropping system of the cotton belt provides large numbers of hand laborers now needed for peak operations in the production of cotton. Mechanization of cotton picking would substantially reduce the labor requirements during the harvesting season and would thus free the cotton crop from dependence upon large numbers of tenants and sharecroppers who, with their families, supply the major portion of that labor.

"The likelihood that the introduction of a successful mechanical picker will result in an acceleration of the shift from animal to tractor power, as well as in a tendency toward the mechanization of pre-harvest operations, further accentuates the problems of adjustment which may be anticipated for a large share of the working population of the South."

Chemurgy Opens New Vista Of Riches for Dixie Farmers; Tennessee Joins Move Jan. 26

Meeting at Nashville Will Launch Statewide Chemurgic Council; Growing Crops for Industry's Use Is Plan's Objective

By R. BRINKLEY SNOWDEN JR.

Chairman of Agriculture Committee, Memphis Chamber of Commerce

Commercial Appeal

WITH the South's farmers faced with the possibility of a complete loss of their export cotton market and a consequent idleness for at least 12 million acres, speculation is rife as to what use this acreage can be put.

Necessity has always been the mother of invention, and in this case the owners of these lands will look to science to find for them a utility for their otherwise idle acres. We are living in a chemical era as great, if you please, as the mechanical and electrical eras experienced throughout the past two decades.

The National Farm Chemurgic Council has called on the various states to prepare state-wide organizations to function in connection with it in an intelligent co-ordinated effort. Six Southern states have already organized such state units. Tennessee will organize at a mass meeting to be held in Nashville Jan. 26, 1938. Similar councils are already in operation in Mississippi and Arkansas.

Farm Chemurgy means "the putting to work of chemistry in agriculture." It means the type of work done by Dr. Charles Herty who recently dispelled the myth that pitch in slash pine prevented this product from conversion into kraft paper and thus opened up an opportunity to employ thousands of Southern acres for the production of slash pine and other fast growing cord woods for the making of pulp.

In the past four years eight new paper mills capitalized in the aggregate at more than $100,000,000, have moved into the South to take advantage of this vast new opportunity. Most notable of these plants is the paper mill now being constructed at Lufkin, Texas, through the co-operation of the Southern Newsprint Committee whereby newspulp will be manufactured in the South instead of imported from the Canadian woods.

New Opportunities For Farmer

Chemurgy also means the opening up of opportunities such as the new sweet potato starch plant at Laurel, Miss., whereby starch is extracted from sweet potatoes on a profitable basis employing some 30,000 acres and enabling a doubling of the potato yield.

It means the discovery of a disease-resisting sweet potato, and the slicing and dehydration of the raw material for dry storage so that a 12-month manufacturing operation is practiced, and enabling the farmers of that area to return more profit from the growing of sweet potatoes than they had ever before experienced in the growing of cotton.

From the quantity of tapioca starch now imported from other countries (400,000,000 pounds) it would seem profitable to employ 400 additional plants as large as the one now operating at Laurel.

Farm Chemurgy likewise means the development and refinemen applied to all of the soy bean products—another of the items which we are still importing in large volume; also Mississippi's tung oil for the paint industry.

It further embraces the work done in hemp reasearch, cellulose research, and through this latter opens up tremendous fields in the plastic industry which is already now doing a $200,000,000 annual business and is only in its infancy.

Power Alcohol Is Aim

Chemurgy, too, holds promise for a tremendous new development in agricultural alcohol (Agrol). This is the process whereby agricultural alcohol is distilled from plants and blended with gasoline in what is known as a 20 per cent blend, that is: 80 per cent gasoline and 20 per cent alcohol. This does away with most of the carbon monoxide, gives greater efficiency fuel at a cheaper price for all internal combustion engines, and leads the way to a consumption of agricultural products which, at the present time, is beyond comprehension in dollar volume. It will supplant a petroleum supply which is known to be waning.

Briefly, the National Farm Chemurgic Council, which has been operating only a few years with headquarters at Dearborn, Mich., is a non-profit organization dedicated to the progress of chemistry in agriculture. It is the clearing house for chemical ideas in agriculture. It is the co-ordinating agency financed by far-seeing men of great vision which would bring together industry, science and agriculture to the end that all three would benefit.

Its directing genius has a keen comprehension of the importance of the farmer dollar to industry and to the Nation as a whole and it stifles one's imagination to comprehend the possibilities in this direction.

Through the co-ordinating efforts of this agency, the world's greatest chemists are brought together in the attack of each individual problem and because of the clearing house features of the arrangement results are obtained more speedily and more accurately than would be the case if the Council were not functioning.

Agriculture - 1937
Improvement of.

General

Farm Chemurgy Viewed as Key To Economic Salvation of South

Agriculture Needs 'Doctor of Science,' Carl B. Fritsche Tells Academy; Program Envisages $1,250,000,000 in New Crops and Products Annually.

EXPERIMENT, Ga., April 2.—The farmer recently has had too much of 'doctors of law" and now should retain the "doctor of science" and apply permanent remedies to the solution of his future living, Carl B. Fritsche, managing director of the Farm Chemurgic Council, of Dearborn, Mich., told the Georgia Academy of Science at its annual meeting here tonight.

"The magic of political remedies applied to the problems of rural America has been oversold," he asserted, adding that "if men of states will declare a five-year armistice on preparations for war and accept the challenge of men of science, the world will find a new highway to peace and prosperity.

The fundamental measure of a civilization, Mr. Fritsche declared, is the height of the average living standard, and he pointed to farm chemurgy as a program capable of bringing to the south new crops and products valued at $1,250,000,000, with a resultant lifting of this standard.

Farm Chemurgy's Aim.

He described farm chemurgy as putting chemistry to work for the farmer and, indirectly, for society in general, and said farm tenancy should decrease in direct ratio to the success of chemurgic enterprise.

"When one is suffering from undernourishment," he said, "should he seek the advice of a public official or of a dietitian? Likewise, when the soil becomes decadent through exhaustion of fertility, should one seek the advice of a politician or of a chemist? If one is afflicted with an infectious disease, should he seek the advice of a bureaucrat or of a physician? Likewise, when the soil becomes diseased with fungus growth, should one seek the advice of a commissioner or an agronomist?

"Common sense dictates the answers to these questions. The strength of men of science lies in the fact they seek the truth after nature's gifts—what they are, what they are for, why and how. And, appreciating how precious these gifts are, their concern is two-fold: First, to conserve them, and, second, to make them useful to man."

Answer to Problem.

The answer to this concern, he declared, lies in the science of farm chemurgy, "for in proportion as the economic status of the land-owner, the tenant and share-cropper can be improved, the entire nation will benefit accordingly."

The program of the Farm Chemurgic Council, he said, is dependent upon effective co-ordination of agriculture, which furnishes the raw materials; industry, which processes them; science, which tells how to do it, and finance, which furnishes the capital.

In contrast to political panaceas, he said, it is a self-help program divided into three objectives: To advance the industrial use of American farm products through applied science and at prices profitable to the producer; to encourage the production in this country of new and old crops and crop products now imported from abroad; and to preserve the American market for the American farmer. This program, he declared, is based on the philosophy that "so long as poverty thrives in rural America, the nation as a whole cannot enjoy enduring prosperity."

Southland's Wealth.

Mr. Fritsche pointed to the south as the most promising section in the country for the advancement of the council's program with "definite certainty," but warned that while the south is richly endowed with natural resources, "the mere possession of resources does not constitute wealth; it is rather the method in which they are employed."

"No further delay is justified," he asserted, "in launching an industrial-farm program which, upon its completion, should result in an output of new crops and products having an annual value of $1,250,000,000. In view of the growing competitive situation abroad, this amount certainly exceeds any income the south may expect in the future from its cotton crop."

In the fulfillment of the farm chemurgic program, he said, there is a definite need in the south now for 400 agrol plants, 200 starch plants, 100 kraft and newsprint paper mills and 1,000,000 acres of tung oil trees.

At least 25,000,000 acres will be required to supply the organic raw materials for these four chemurgic industries, he said. Such a program, he pointed out, will provide part-time employment in industry for many tenants; provide new employment, directly and indirectly, for more than 3,000,000 men; develop new freight tonnage aggregating over 2,000,000 carloads annually; and bring about a substantial increase in farm income.

SOUTHERN CAPITAL NEED ASSERTS CARL FRITSCHE

The time has come for southern capital to find employment at home and to quit paying homage and tribute to Wall Street, according to Carl B. Fritsche, managing director of the Farm Chemurgic Council, who was principal speaker at the Chamber of Commerce forum luncheon yesterday.

"One powerful new recruit in the battle against disheartening unemployment as well as against profitless employment is the Farm Chemurgic Council," he declared. "It's objective is to find new uses for the natural resources which abound throughout the nation and particularly in the southland.

"Those who think superficially have the impression that the mere presence of raw materials will inevitably produce prosperity and wealth. This is an illusion. Possession, without intelligent use, is of no avail.

To Bring Two Together.

"The south is rich in natural resources of wide variety; the men and women of its colleges, universities and laboratories have the intelligence. Hence, the simple task is to bring the two together amply supported by capital, which can and should be mostly of southern origin. Then a great host of new industries will spring up which will bring about both an industrial and an agricultural renaissance.

"This is the task—the creation of new industries—which has been recently undertaken by the Farm Chemurgic Council, the new recruit which has joined in the battle against enforced idleness of men and of acres.'

The visiting speaker declared we are now on the threshhold of a chemical revolution which, within the next generation, will accomplish as much for the well-being of society and for the broadening of opportunity as did the mechanical and electrical revolution in the two-score years beginning with 1890 and the increasing application of Edison's inventions.

Industries Explained.

Four new chemurgic industries were explained by the speaker. These include 400 agrol plants, utilizing starch and sugar for producing a blending constituent adaptable to motor fuel; 200 starch plants, using the southern white triumph sweet potato; 100 newsprint paper mills, utilizing southern slash and loblolly pine in the process developed by Dr. Charles Herty, of Savannah, and the tung oil industry, which right now needs 1,000,000 acres of tung trees to meet production demands.

Mr. Fritsche announced a Georgia chemurgic conference at Macon April 9-10, with all businessmen and financiers of the state invited to attend. The meeting will be held under the auspices of the University of Georgia Alumni Society, headed by W. D. Anderson, president.

FARM TENANCY BILL MEETS WITH DEFEAT

House Agricultural Body Votes 13 to 11 Against the Measure.

WASHINGTON, March 31.—(AP)—An administration proposal that the government experiment in assisting tenants and sharecroppers to buy farms on easy credit terms met defeat today in its first Congressional test.

The house agriculture committee voted 13 to 11 against authorizing the secretary of agriculture to spend $50,000,000 annually to buy land for resale to tenants on terms that would give them as long as 45 years to pay. Seven Democrats and six Republicans opposed the proposal.

Vote Follows Conference.

The vote closely followed a conference in which President Roosevelt advised Chairman Jones, democrat, Texas, and several other committee members that farm tenancy legislation should not provide for huge initial expenditures.

The land-buying and resale proposal was one of three tenancy aids suggested by President Roosevelt in a message to congress by Secretary Wallace at committee hearings and by the President's special tenancy commission.

Wallace, commenting at a recent hearing on a tenant land-buying bill, said "A measure of this general nature would be a very valuable forward step in checking the growth of tenancy."

He urged, however, that it be accompanied by two other approaches—rehabilitation loans and retirement of land unsuited for cultivation.

Opposing Vote.

Democrats who voted against the proposal were Representatives Fulmer, South Carolina; Polk, Ohio; Kleberg, Texas; Pierce, Oregon; Hook, Michigan; Coffee, Nebraska, and Lucas, Illinois. Republicans against were: Hope, Kansas; Tobey, New Hampshire; Kinzer, Pennsylvania; Hoffman, Michigan; Lord, New York, and Andresen, Minnesota.

Those who voted for the proposal were: Jones, Doxey, Mississippi; Mitchell, Tennessee; Flannagan, Virginia; Beam, Illinois; Cummings, Colorado; Biermann, Iowa; Owen, Georgia; Cooley, North Carolina, and Nelson, Missouri, all Democrats, and Boileau, Progressive, of Wisconsin.

NEW TENANCY BILL APPROVED BY HOUSE

Revised Bill Authorizes 40-Year, Three Per Cent Interest Loans.

WASHINGTON, July 13.—(AP)—The house adopted today a conference report drawn to settle differences with the senate over farm tenancy legislation.

The senate has not acted on the report yet.

As approved by the house the tenancy measure would authorize 40-year, 3 per cent interest loans to tenants for purchase of farm homes.

It would authorize an appropriation of $10,000,000 in 1938, $25,000,000 in 1939 and $50,000,000 annually thereafter for such loans. The bill also carries authorization for expenditure of $10,000,000 in 1938 and $20,000,000 in both 1939 and 1940 for retirement of submarginal land.

The house accepted a senate provision to prohibit a borrower from selling his land within five years after a tenancy loan was made on it.

Acceding to demands of senate conferees that the program contain barriers against speculation, the house accepted a provision that would prohibit tenant borrowers from selling the land within five years of the time loans are made.

The bill also would authorize $10,000,000 in 1938 and $20,000,000 each in 1939 and 1940 for retirement of submarginal land.

Representative Pace, Democrat, Georgia, one of the few to oppose the measure, contended it would regiment tenants under "the whims" of secretaries of agriculture. He objected to a provision that would require tenant borrowers to use farming practices prescribed by the secretary of agriculture.

concede defeat on the wage-hour issue. At his press conference he said a reporter who questioned him on that point was a little premature.

Farm Tenant Bill Sent To White House

Sets Aside 85 Millions To Make Landowner Out Of Sharecropper

New AAA Offered

Advertiser

Million Appropriated For Fighting Grasshoppers Now Plaguing West

7-16-37

WASHINGTON, July 15.—(AP)—The court bill truce broke a legislative jam today and permitted enactment of long-pending farm legislation.

Montgomery, Ala.

While the armistice declared upon the death of Senator Robinson kept the court fight off the floor, the Senate sent to the White House a bill authorizing an $85,000,000 outlay in three years to help tenants become farm owners.

It then joined the House in appropriating $1,000,000 to combat a grasshopper plague in Western States, and permitted Senator Pope (D), Idaho, to introduce his proposed "agricultural adjustment act of 1937."

Pope had tried in vain during the court debate to submit the measure, which he said embodies the recommendations of President Roosevelt. It includes Secretary Wallace's ever-normal granary proposal.

The tenancy legislation empowers the Secretary of Agriculture to lend $10,000,000 this fiscal year, $25,000,000 next and $50,000,000 annually thereafter, at 3 per cent interest, for farm purchases.

Loans would be retired in 4 years, or less. Though tenants and sharecroppers buying land with Federal aid would take title immediately, they could not seel the properties for five years.

The bill also authorizes $50,000,000 of appropriations in the next three years for the purchase and retirement of submarginal land, and makes provision for use of relief and other funds for rehabilitation loans, at the President's discretion.

Advocates expressed confidence Mr. Roosevelt would sign it.

The tenancy bill and the grasshopper appropriation went through the Senate without debate, after leaders of both parties had agreed to limit the day's business to non-controversial matters.

Agriculture department officials said the appropriation would supplement relief fund allotments for the campaign against grasshopper plagues in Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, North and South Dakota, Kansas and Nebraska. The campaign may be carried later to Missouri, Illinois and possibly other states, they said.

After introducing the new crop control bill, Pope issued a statement saying a 200,000,000-bushel wheat surplus is in prospect this year. He said his measure is designed to deal with a problem likely to arise in serious form in 1938 and following years.

Pope expressed hope the proposal will be enacted at this session, but Chairman Smith (D), South Carolina), of the Senate agricultural committee declared it has no chance and should go over until next year.

The measure is designed to stabilize farm prices. Its ever-normal granary section provides for the storage of up to 10 per cent of the yields of wheat, cotton, corn, rice and tobacco in good harvest years for use in poor ones. Government loans would be made on the stores crops.

Rust Picker Could Upset Rural South

Advertiser

Invention Listed At Top Of Devices Termed 'Dangerous'

7-18-37

WASHINGTON, July 17.—(AP)—The mechanical cotton-picker had first place today in rank among inventions possible of upsetting present economic, social and industrial conditions.

Montgomery, Ala.

Experts who compiled the voluminous report suggesting a national commission study inventions and scientific advances to plan governmental policies, agreed the mechanized cotton harvester might prove explosive.

They disagreed as to whether it now is perfected or might soon replace millions of farm laborers in the populous rural South. But when and if it becomes common they said, the machine will bring problems for the South, North, East and West.

The study said between 8,000,000 and 9,000,000 persons are now in the nearly 2,000,000 tenant families of the cotton South. It estimated that from one-fourth to three-fourths of these might be displaced by the cumbersome machine which strips cotton from the plants.

What will happen to these hordes of unemployed was the first question. One expert asked if they would flood the cities of the North, East and West with cheap labor.

Blessing Or Cure?

Roman L. Horne, of the Government's AAA staff said "reassurance is wanted that a machine capable of picking in one day as much cotton as an experienced hand can pick in a month will be a blessing or curse to mankind."

He said "the negro, the mule, and the plow are still characteristic of the social and economic system that prevails in the greater part of the rural South."

Actual field demonstrations of the Rust Brothers cotton-picker last year in fields of the South and Soviet Russia convinced many experts, Horne said, that the time of actual operation was very near.

If the mechanical picker succeeds, Horne said the tractor and other machines might soon mechanize the cotton industry. This could displace 5,000,000 horses and mules, he said, and release for other purposes 25,000,000 acres of farm land now needed to provide animal feed.

William F. Ogburn, Chicago University sociologist, said success of the cotton picker "may be catastrophic" in influence on the negro. "The political system of the Southern states may be greatly altered."

Actually, mechanical cotton picking machines date back more than half a century, the report said, with more than 900 patents granted in this field by the U. S. Government.

Cotton Inferior

S. H. McCrory, chief of the agricultural engineers of the Department of Agriculture, said "machine-picked cotton is inferior to hand-picked cotton and in view of present wage scales, mechanical harvesting does not offer a sufficient saving in costs to offset the lowering in quality."

If this country entered a war or some other force created a labor shortage and high wages in the cotton belt, McCrory said "adoption of the mechanical cotton harvester might be expected."

Bernhardt J. Stern, social scientist at Columbia University, said "fear of overproduction with consequent shattering of existing price levels, and of drastic displacement of cotton pickers, is deterring the introduction of the automatic cotton pickers."

He said the machine was used in Soviet Russia because there was no unemployment problem there and the machine could be controlled.

PICKING MACHINE SEEN AS DANGER

Telegraph

Government's Survey Lists Rust Device as Potential Cause of Upheaval

7-18-37

Macon, Ga.

WASHINGTON, July 17 (AP)—The mechanical cotton picker had first place today in rank among inventions possible of upsetting present economic, social and industrial conditions.

Experts who compiled the voluminous report suggesting a national commission study inventions and scientific advances to plan governmental policies, agreed the mechanized cotton harvester might prove explosive.

They disagreed as to whether it now is perfected or might soon replace millions of farm laborers in the populous rural South. But when and if it becomes common, they said, the machine will bring problems for the South, North, East and West.

The study said between 8,000,000 and 9,000,000 persons are now in the nearly 2,000,000 tenant families of the cotton South. It estimated that from one-fourth to three-fourth of these might be displaced by the cumbersome machine which strips cotton from the plants.

"Reassurance Is Wanted"

What will happen to these hordes of unemployed was the first question. One expert asked if they would flood the cities of the North, East, and West with cheap labor.

If so, he puzzled the effect upon organized labor, wages, living standards and other social and economic levels in the North.

Roman L. Horne, of the government's AAA staff, said:

"Reassurance is wanted that a machine capable of picking in one day as much cotton as an experienced hand can pick in a month will be a blessing or curse to mankind."

He said, "The Negro, the mule, and the plow are still characteristic of the social and economic system that prevails in the greater part of the rural South."

"May Be Catastrophic"

Actual field demonstrations of the Rust brothers cotton-picker last year in fields of the Sotuh and Soviet Russia convinced many experts, Horne said, that the time of actual operation was very near.

If the mechanical picker succeeds, Horne said, the tractor and other machines might soon mechanize the cotton industry. This could displace 5,000,000 horses and mules, he said, and release for other purposes 25,000,000 acres of farm land now needed to provide animal feed.

William F. Ogburn, Chicago university sociologist, said success of the cotton picker "may be catastrophic" in influence on the Negro. "The political system of the southern states may be greatly altered," he said.

House Votes Fund To Give Tenants Aid

Advertiser

Farm Purchasing, Dust Bowl's Rehabilitation Included In Measure

LaborBoard Scored

4-18-37

Amendment By Starnes To Appropriations Bill Wins Despite Criticism

Montgomery, Ala.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 17.—(AP)—A boisterous House passed the session's final big appropriation bill in an overtime session tonight after increasing it by $20,000,000 to start the Administration's farm tenancy program.

Carrying a total of $98,880,375, the appropriation went through without a record vote.

The House over-rode recommendations of its appropriations committee and pleas for economy in granting the Agriculture Department's request for $20,000,000 to start tenancy aid.

Half of this fund was asked for farm purchase loans to tenants and half for converting portions of the western "Dust Bowl" into a vast pasture.

An amendment by Representative Starnes (D), Alabama, providing the millions for tenancy aid, won despite vigorous, bi-partisan opposition.

Plea For Help Sounded

Farm State members demanded that something be done for "these homeless farmers."

The bill also carries $22,500,000 to begin a three-year program of post-office and other public building construction. Members said the program will permit erection of approximately 380 structures costing $70,000,000.

As passed, the bill was approximately $20,367,500 larger than the total recommended by the appropriations committee.

Part of the increase was due to restoration of $867,500 which the committee had cut from an appropriation for the National Labor Relations Board.

The fund for the labor board was the subject of bitter controversy.

"If you want to give life to the Wagner-Connery labor relations Act," urged Representative Mead (D), New York, "rise in your places and support this amendment."

Representative Rankin (D), Mississippi, accused the labor board of "fomenting strikes" and increasing labor unrest.

"This money is being wasted," he declared. "I am in favor of a labor board but I am in favor of an honest board."

He demanded to know whether the members of the three-man board are members of the CIO.

"If they are," he shouted, "they ought to be fired."

The committee slash in the board's fund was over-ridden finally by a vote of 125 to 112.

Tenancy Plan Criticized

During the House debate appropriations committee members urged that the tenancy program is "nebulous and indefinite." Representative Woodrum (D), Virginia, asserting that serious difficulties are ahead unless Congress balances the budget as speedily as possible, declared the plan is "the craziest thing I ever heard of."

Accused by Representative McFarlane (D), Texas, of lining up with Republicans in most questions, Woodrum retorted quickly:

"Oh, I don't know about that. The Good Book says 'join not the multitude to do evil'."

The Virginian warned his colleagues that eventually 2,800,000 farmers will be "running their farms on Government subsidies."

"Then you'll have an opportunity to explain to the other 90 per cent of your farmers where the justice and equity come in," he said.

Chairman Jones (D), Texas, of the agriculture committee defended the tenancy program answering contentions that the proposed initial outlay is too small to dent the problem, Jones asserted he would rather have the program start modestly "than with a big flush."

The House cut much of the red tape out of its complicated parliamentary rules to speed up business so that it may adjourn Saturday. Right-of-way to the floor tomorrow was obtained for low cost housing legislation, the only additional measure on the program which leaders expect to enact before adjournment.

Some members still fought today for action on wage and hour legislation. Representative Doughton (D), North Carolina, called a caucus of House Democrats, in response to a petition signed by 88 of them, to consider what, if anything can be done to wrest the labor standards bill from opponents holding it in the House rules committee. The caucus was set for Thursday. Most leaders agreed, however, the wage-hour measure was destined to join court reorganization, executive reorganization, crop control and regional planning on the list of Administration proposals failing of enactment.

President Roosevelt still refused to

Farm Tenant Bill Sent To White House

Sets Aside 85 Millions To Make Landowner Out Of Sharecropper

New AAA Offered

Million Appropriated For Fighting Grasshoppers Now Plaguing West

WASHINGTON, July 15.—(AP)—The court bill truce broke a legislative jam today and permitted enactment of long-pending farm legislation.

While the armistice declared upon the death of Senator Robinson kept the court fight off the floor, the Senate sent to the White House a bill authorizing an $85,000,000 outlay in three years to help tenants become farm owners.

It then joined the House in appropriating $1,000,000 to combat a grasshopper plague in Western States, and permitted Senator Pope (D), Idaho, to introduce his proposed "agricultural adjustment act of 1937."

Pope had tried in vain during the court debate to submit the measure, which he said embodies the recommendations of President Roosevelt. It includes Secretary Wallace's ever-normal granary proposal.

The tenancy legislation empowers the Secretary of Agriculture to lend $10,000,000 this fiscal year, $25,000,000 next and $50,000,000 annually thereafter, at 3 per cent interest, for farm purchases.

Loans would be retired in 4 years, or less. Though tenants and sharecroppers buying land with Federal aid would take title immediately, they could not seel the properties for five years.

The bill also authorizes $50,000,000 of appropriations in the next three years for the purchase and retirement of submarginal land, and makes provision for use of relief and other funds for rehabilitation loans, at the President's discretion.

Advocates expressed confidence Mr. Roosevelt would sign it.

The tenancy bill and the grasshopper appropriation went through the Senate without debate, after leaders of both parties had agreed to limit the day's business to non-controversial matters.

Agriculture department officials said the appropriation would supplement relief fund allotments for the campaign against grasshopper plagues in Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, North and South Dakota, Kansas and Nebraska. The campaign may be carried later to Missouri, Illinois and possibly other states, they said.

After introducing the new crop control bill, Pope issued a statement saying a 200,000,000-bushel wheat surplus is in prospect this year. He said his measure is designed to deal with a problem likely to arise in serious form in 1938 and following years.

Pope expressed hope the proposal will be enacted at this session, but Chairman Smith (D), South Carolina), of the Senate agricultural committee declared it has no chance and should go over until next year.

The measure is designed to stabilize farm prices. Its ever-normal granary section provides for the storage of up to 10 per cent of the yields of wheat, cotton, corn, rice and tobacco in good harvest years for use in poor ones. Government loans would be made on the stores crops.

Rust Picker Could Upset Rural South

Invention Listed At Top Of Devices Termed 'Dangerous'

WASHINGTON, July 17.—(AP)—The mechanical cotton-picker had first place today in rank among inventions possible of upsetting present economic, social and industrial conditions.

Experts who compiled the voluminous report suggesting a national commission study inventions and scientific advances to plan governmental policies, agreed the mechanized cotton harvester might prove explosive.

They disagreed as to whether it now is perfected or might soon replace millions of farm laborers in the populous rural South. But when and if it becomes common they said, the machine will bring problems for the South, North, East and West.

The study said between 8,000,000 and 9,000,000 persons are now in the nearly 2,000,000 tenant families of the cotton South. It estimated that from one-fourth to three-fourths of these might be displaced by the cumbersome machine which strips cotton from the plants.

What will happen to these hordes of unemployed was the first question. One expert asked if they would flood the cities of the North, East and West with cheap labor.

Blessing Or Cure?

Roman L. Horne, of the Government's AAA staff said "reassurance is wanted that a machine capable of picking in one day as much cotton as an experienced hand can pick in a month will be a blessing or curse to mankind."

He said "the negro, the mule, and the plow are still characteristic of the social and economic system that prevails in the greater part of the rural South."

Actual field demonstrations of the Rust Brothers cotton-picker last year in fields of the South and Soviet Russia convinced many experts, Horne said, that the time of actual operation was very near.

If the mechanical picker succeeds, Horne said the tractor and other machines might soon mechanize the cotton industry. This could displace 5,000,000 horses and mules, he said, and release for other purposes 25,000,000 acres of farm land now needed to provide animal feed.

William F. Ogburn, Chicago University sociologist, said success of the cotton picker "may be catastrophic" in influence on the negro. "The political system of the Southern states may be greatly altered."

Actually, mechanical cotton picking machines date back more than half a century, the report said, with more than 900 patents granted in this field by the U. S. Government.

Cotton Inferior

S. H. McCrory, chief of the agricultural engineers of the Department of Agriculture, said "machine-picked cotton is inferior to hand-picked cotton and in view of present wage scales, mechanical harvesting does not offer a sufficient saving in costs to offset the lowering in quality."

If this country entered a war or some other force created a labor shortage and high wages in the cotton belt, McCrory said "adoption of the mechanical cotton harvester might be expected."

Bernhardt J. Stern, social scientist at Columbia University, said "fear of overproduction with consequent shattering of existing price levels, and of drastic displacement of cotton pickers, is deterring the introduction of the automatic cotton pickers."

He said the machine was used in Soviet Russia because there was no unemployment problem there and the machine could be controlled.

PICKING MACHINE SEEN AS DANGER

Government's Survey Lists Rust Device as Potential Cause of Upheaval

WASHINGTON, July 17 (AP)—The mechanical cotton picker had first place today in rank among inventions possible of upsetting present economic, social and industrial conditions.

Experts who compiled the voluminous report suggesting a national commission study inventions and scientific advances to plan governmental policies, agreed the mechanized cotton harvester might prove explosive.

They disagreed as to whether it now is perfected or might soon replace millions of farm laborers in the populous rural South. But when and if it becomes common, they said, the machine will bring problems for the South, North, East and West.

The study said between 8,000,000 and 9,000,000 persons are now in the nearly 2,000,000 tenant families of the cotton South. It estimated that from one-fourth to three-fourth of these might be displaced by the cumbersome machine which strips cotton from the plants.

"Reassurance Is Wanted"

What will happen to these hordes of unemployed was the first question. One expert asked if they would flood the cities of the North, East, and West with cheap labor.

If so, he puzzled the effect upon organized labor, wages, living standards and other social and economic levels in the North.

Roman L. Horne, of the government's AAA staff, said:

"Reassurance is wanted that a machine capable of picking in one day as much cotton as an experienced hand can pick in a month will be a blessing or curse to mankind."

He said, "The Negro, the mule, and the plow are still characteristic of the social and economic system that prevails in the greater part of the rural South."

"May Be Catastrophic"

Actual field demonstrations of the Rust brothers cotton-picker last year in fields of the Sotuh and Soviet Russia convinced many experts, Horne said, that the time of actual operation was very near.

If the mechanical picker succeeds, Horne said, the tractor and other machines might soon mechanize the cotton industry. This could displace 5,000,000 horses and mules, he said, and release for other purposes 25,000,000 acres of farm land now needed to provide animal feed.

William F. Ogburn, Chicago university sociologist, said success of the cotton picker "may be catastrophic" in influence on the Negro. "The political system of the southern states may be greatly altered," he said.

House Votes Fund To Give Tenants Aid

Farm Purchasing, Dust Bowl's Rehabilitation Included In Measure

Labor Board Scored

Amendment By Starnes To Appropriations Bill Wins Despite Criticism

WASHINGTON, Aug. 17.—(AP)—A boisterous House passed the session's final big appropriation bill in an overtime session today after increasing it by $20,000,000 to start the Administration's farm tenancy program.

Carrying a total of $98,880,375, the appropriation went through without a record vote.

The House over-rode recommendations of its appropriations committee and pleas for economy in granting the Agriculture Department's request for $20,000,000 to start tenancy aid.

Half of this fund was asked for farm purchase loans to tenants and half for converting portions of the western "Dust Bowl" into a vast pasture.

An amendment by Representative Starnes (D), Alabama, providing the millions for tenancy aid, won despite vigorous, bi-partisan opposition.

Plea For Help Sounded

Farm State members demanded that something be done for "these homeless farmers."

The bill also carries $22,500,000 to begin a three-year program of post-office and other public building construction. Members said the program will permit erection of approximately 380 structures costing $70,000,000.

As passed, the bill was approximately $20,367,500 larger than the total recommended by the appropriations committee.

Part of the increase was due to restoration of $867,500 which the committee had cut from an appropriation for the National Labor Relations Board.

The fund for the labor board was the subject of bitter controversy.

"If you want to give life to the Wagner-Connery labor relations Act," urged Representative Mead (D), New York, "rise in your places and support this amendment."

Representative Rankin (D), Mississippi, accused the labor board of "fomenting strikes" and increasing labor unrest.

"This money is being wasted," he declared. "I am in favor of a labor board but I am in favor of an honest board."

He demanded to know whether the members of the three-man board are members of the CIO.

"If they are," he shouted, "they ought to be fired."

The committee slash in the board's fund was over-ridden finally by a vote of 125 to 112.

Tenancy Plan Criticized

During the House debate appropriations committee members urged that the tenancy program is "nebulous and indefinite." Representative Woodrum (D), Virginia, asserting that serious difficulties are ahead unless Congress balances the budget as speedily as possible, declared the plan is "the craziest thing I ever heard of."

Accused by Representative McFarlane (D), Texas, of lining up with Republicans in most questions, Woodrum retorted quickly:

"Oh, I don't know about that. The Good Book says 'join not the multi-

Agriculture—1937
6 Improvement of.

General

Richmond, Va., Times-Dispatch
July 23, 1937

A Lesson at Appomattox

SEVERAL years ago MISS FLORENCE STUBBS of the State Teachers' College at Farmville, organized a course in race relations. She received liberal assistance from L. R. REYNOLDS, director of the Virginia Commission on Interracial Co-operation, who had for some time been sending to schools, and other agencies of public opinion in the State, a traveling kit of books on Negro life, and Negro problems. One of the 16 young women who took the first course in race relations at Farmville, was MISS FLORA BELLE WILLIAMS. MISS WILLIAMS has now written an outline of the course in race relations she gave to the seventh grade at Appomattox High School last year, that is being widely circulated, and that will doubtless serve as a model for similar courses in race relations in secondary schools throughout the United States.

The fact that this model course in interracial relations is being given in the high school at Appomattox, where peace came to the War Between the States, and a new era in race relations began in the United States, has a pleasing significance. The boys and girls who are taking MISS WILLIAMS' course on the Negro are two generations removed from the war that ended at Appomattox, and represent a generation of the South that can take a reasonably academic view of States' rights, and their complications of 1861. But they belong to a generation that is still very likely to inherit a lot of preconceived ideas and active prejudices that mar the plot of interracial co-operation.

MISS WILLIAMS has outlined her course in interracial relations in an article, "A Unit—The Negro," which appeared in *The Southern Workman*, and which has been reprinted by the Virginia Commission on Interracial Co-operation. The course, a comprehensive study of the race, takes the student back to the Negro's origin in Africa, through his American history in slavery, and offers a history of his achievement as he has come up from slavery. It is interestingly related to current events, and shows how the student can be encouraged to do research of his own. MISS WILLIAMS has demonstrated that students can be interested in vital social questions, at an age when attitudes are being formed.

700 New Uses Being Sought For Cotton

Research In Potential Utility Of Staple Pushed In South

MEMPHIS, TENN., Sept. 18.—(AP)—The Cotton Research Foundation revealed in a preliminary announcement today the inauguration of an inquiry into a field of 700 potential uses for the cotton plant.

The Foundation came into being here several months ago as the outgrowth of a concerted effort to promote new uses for the South's money crop.

Oscar Johnston, Scott, Miss., advisory council chairman, said laboratory experiments on the practical possibilities of plant uses for specific purposes are underway at the Mellon Institute of Pittsburgh where Foundation representatives are receiving the cooperation of the institute's experts.

The 700 potential uses were listed by the Foundation's representatives at the institute after a review of technical and trade literature in the subject. The uses are being classified and organized so that the Foundation may obtain a broader view of past and current ideas on the general problem.

The vast new field of suggested uses was not made public by Mr. Johnston, who explained the report was a private one for Foundation members. The present status of the investigation made it inadvisable to make public potential uses which require further study.

The foundation is sending three of its fellows here next week to study cotton in the field and the processes for marketing it.

700 USES OF COTTON REVEALED BY REVIEW

Progress Report for August Issued by Foundation

PUSH PRELIMINARY WORK

Three Fellows of Mellon Institute Arrive Tomorrow for Study of Staple in Fields and Its Marketing

9-19-37

A vast field of suggested uses for the cotton plant has been opened to the Cotton Research Foundation, of the Mellon Institute of Pittsburgh, according to the Foundation's monthly progress report for August made to its directors, guarantors and Advisory Council.

The report states that a review of the technical and trade literature already studied has revealed 700 uses of the plant, according to Oscar Johnston of Scott, Miss., Advisory Council chairman of the Foundation. The potential uses are being classified and organized to obtain a broader view of past and current ideas on the general problem of cotton plant uses, the report said. Preliminary laboratory experiments are under way seeking new uses.

Plan Study In Field

Investigators of uses who are not connected with the Foundation should be stimulated in their research by the reliable basic information on chemical and physical properties of the cotton plant now made available by the Foundation according to the report.

Furthering their preliminary work, the Foundation is sending three of its Fellows here tomorrow to study cotton in the fields and the processes for marketing it. Two or three days will be spent at the Delta and Pine Land Co., at Scott of which Mr. Johnston is president following a study of cotton in Memphis. The fellows are D. M. Musser, R. F. Nickerson and H. S. Olcott.

Sixteen members of national prominence appointed to the Foundation's Advisory Board were announced yesterday by Everett R. Cook of Cook & Co., Foundation president.

They are: William D. Anderson, Bibb Manufacturing Co., Macon, Ga.; H. Donald Campbell, president, Chase National Bank, New York; William L. Clayton of Anderson, Clayton & Co., Houston, Texas; David R. Coker, president, Coker's Pedigreed Seed Co., Hartsville, S. C.

Other Members Listed

Donald Comer, president, Avondale Mills, Birmingham, Ala.; Joe W. Evans, Evans & Co., Houston; C. E. Fenner, Fenner & Beane, and president New Orleans Cotton Exchange, New Orleans, La.; O. Max Gardner, attorney, and former governor North Carolina, Washington, D. C.

W. M. Garrard, vice president and general manager, Staple Cotton Co-Operative Association, Greenwood, Miss.; Frank K. Houston, president, Chemical Bank & Trust Co., New York; James R. Leavell, president, Continental Illinois National Bank & Trust Co., Chicago; Elliott Springs, president, Springs Cotton Mills, Lancaster, S. C.

Kenneth S. Templeton, president, Chicago Board of Trade, Chicago; Adolph Weil, Weil Bros., Montgomery, Ala.; Gen. R. E. Wood, president, Sears, Roebuck & Co., Chicago, and H. Lane Young, president, Citizens & Southern Bank, Atlanta.

Ten more names of similar prominence will be added to the Advisory Board in the near future, Mr. Cook said.

Scientists Study Compressing of Cotton

The compressing of cotton was one of the phases of marketing and manufacturing the data that particularly interested three Fellows of the Cotton Research Foundation of the Mellon Institute at Pittsburgh, here on a field survey, studying a cotton bale are the three scientists (left to right): Dr. D. M. Musser, Dr. R. F. Nickerson and Dr. H. S. Olcott.

COTTON RESEARCHERS BEGIN WEEK'S SURVEY

Mellon Institute Fellows Visit Oil Mills

FIELD TRIPS SCHEDULED

Trio Will Continue Study On Mississippi Plantations— Findings Expected To Prove Valuable In Final Report

By BOB MARKS

A week's survey of industrial processes for cotton and a field trip to study cotton agriculturally were started here yesterday by three Fellows of the Cotton Research Foundation, of the Mellon Institute at Pittsburgh.

The Fellows are Dr. Ralph F. Nickerson, Dr. Harold S. Olcott and Dr. David M. Musser.

Field Trips Planned

Arriving yesterday morning from Pittsburgh, the scientists spent the day visiting industrial laboratories, oil mills, compresses and finishing plants. Their survey in Memphis is expected to be concluded tomorrow night when they will leave to visit the Delta and Pine Land Co., at Scott, Miss., as guests of Oscar Johnston, president, and the Government Experiment Station at Stoneville, Miss.

The Cotton Research Foundation was established by Memphis and Mid-South cotton and business men and plantation interests for research into fields of suggested uses for cotton. The visiting Fellows have already completed a preliminary study of cotton literature which revealed 700 potential sources of cotton consumption, they said.

Visit Oil Mills

The Foundation's scientists spent yesterday morning discussing a program of inspections here that would give them a broad understanding of the problems confronting the industries using cotton and cotton products. Their first visit was to West Memphis to inspect cotton oil mills there. Each process of cottonseed conversion brought numerous questions from the Foundation visitors for future reference in their researches. Particular interest was shown by them in extraction of cotton seed oil substances and the possibility of converting them into industrial uses.

Tensile strength of cotton cloth in finishing plants and the use of bagging in compresses were other phases which brought a barrage of queries from the Fellows.

Data To Be Assembled

The data assembled on their trip will be classified and assembled when the scientists return to their duties at the Foundation. No effort will be made to test the practicality of new cotton uses under consideration until their return to Pittsburgh, they said.

"Immediate results from this visit and our early researches are, of course, impossible," said Dr. Olcott. "The study and search for new uses must necessarily include steps of trial and error. However, we are enthusiastic at the opportunity given by the Foundation for scientific exploration into the field of cotton uses. It is a vast field in its boundaries and rich in possibilities, almost a virgin soil to be cultivated and promising fruitful returns to the South through its important crops of cotton."

Agriculture-1937
Improvement of.

General

Chemurgic Councils Outline Self-Help Program For South

Area Looks To Chemist To Lift It From Bondage of One-Crop System Through Development of New Industries

By United Press

ATLANTA, Ga., April 18.—The agricultural South tonight looked to the chemist to lift it from the bondage of a one-crop system, to supply thousands with employment in new industries and to increase annual income by $1,000,000,000.

Chemurgic councils outlined a broad, self-help program for the South, with three major objectives:

1. To advance the industrial use of southern farm products through applied science and at prices profitable to the producer.
2. To encourage the production in this country of new crops and crop products now imported from abroad.
3. To preserve the American market for the American farmer.

Thomas C. Low, Atlanta industrial chemist, visualizing the machine age as "a thing of the past," said chemistry is making possible southern establishment of new paper mills, starch mill, power alcohol plants and plants for processing tung oil.

Dr. C. C. Concannon of the U. S. Departmnet of Commerce, said tremendous strides are being made in tung oil production, an essential ingredient of paints, used in the paint, varnish, linoleum and electrical industries.

Consumption of the oil in 1936 was 119,000,000 pounds, of which 117,000,000 pounds were imported from China.

Concannon said the Chinese had used the oil for 5,000 years in glazing pottery, famous lacquers, and in their lamps. Junks were waterproofed with the oil, and, in the paste form, tung oil was used for caulking boats.

Southern farmers were urged to plant 1,000,000 acres of tung oil trees which mature in four years and are immediately available for industry. The trees are especially adaptable to the southern coastal region.

Meanwhile, a rise in new pulp mills in the South was expected to make the United States independent in production of Kraft paper from pine trees.

This new industry, for which more than a dozen new plants are planned for the south, utilizes Kraft or sulphate pulp for manufacturing heavy paper for containers and wrapping paper.

Chemists pointed out that the tremendous expansion involves kraft paper alone, while southern newspaper publishers are working on a program for production of newsprint from southern pine.

The program called for 100 paper mills, kraft, newsprint and otherwise which would employ thousands. Industrialists believed a southern mill of 3,500 tons annual production could produce newsprint for $31.70 per ton as against the present 21-year low of $41.

Two industries beckoned to other parts of the south where production of wood pulp and tung oil would be impractical. These were manufacture of starches and alcohols.

That fermenting starch and sugar crops as corn, sweet potatoes, and sorghum could produce a superior motor fuel alcohol, and alcohols used in other industries, has successfully been demonstrated at plants in Kansas and Texas. The program called for 400 such plants in the south, using land now suited to ordinary crops.

Chemists saw in the starch of grains and in the sweet juices of canes a raw material of greater potential value than they ever had as foods.

Dr. H. E. Barnard of Dearborn, Mich., said these juices would be "the basis for an industry which in the near future must fill the need for power now met by the distillate from crude oils".

Starch, important to the textile industry in processing cloth, would mean millions of dollars to southern farmers if 200 sweet potato starch mills were constructed, chemists said.

Harold R. Murdock, research director of the pulp division of the champion paper and fibre company, Canton, N. C., said there were three stages in the new industries.

"The first, pioneering, chapter of the industry is now closed. The second, a general realization of possibilities, will end when new mills, now projected or under construction, have begun production.

"In the new era, farmers, industrialists, governmental laboratories and chemists will work together to make new processes available to industry."

Sugar Formula Promises 'Million New Chemicals

Vast Possibilities Opened for Farm Products, Dr. Claude S. Hudson Explains to Meeting of American Society At Its Convention

By HOWARD W. BLAKESLEE
(Associated Press Science Editor)

CHAPEL HILL, N. C., April 12 (AP).—A formula that will make more than a million new chemicals from sugar, and convert all the starches from farm crops into new industrial possibilities, was announced to the American Chemical society today upon the opening of its 93rd meeting.

The sugar discovery was reported by Dr. Claude S. Hudson, noted sugar chemist of the National Institute of Health, at Washington. The formula uses alcohol to produce "drunken sugars."

A second unusual discovery, which promises to extract from the earth the sixteen metals and metallic substances known as the rare earths that have never been available to industry or in most cases, even to scientific experiments, was made by Prof. James Kendall, of the University of Edinburgh.

The same discovery, Dr. Kendall said, also promises a speedier method of extracting radium from barium, one of the metals containing this precious metal.

Dr. Hudson's new formula embraces a treatment of "drunken sugars" with alcohol to develop an oxygen resistance which permits the removal of one carbon atom from the five in sugar molecule, leaving a new substance called an aldehyde.

Since aldehydes will combine with almost any other substance, and since every one of the scores of different kinds of sugar in plants will make a different aldehyde, the Hudson formula makes possible an almost astronomically large number of new chemicals from sugar.

Chemists already know how to convert any starch into sugar enlarging the resources for creating new aldehydes. The importance to the farming industry in this formula lies in the fact that roughly 6 crops plants are one-third sugars and starches, the remainder being proteins and fats.

CHEMURGIC PARLEY SLATED FOR TODAY

Five States To Participate in Conference on Use of Farm Products.

MACON, Ga., April 8.—(AP)—New and advanced industrial uses for southern farm products will be the theme of the Georgia chemurgic conference to be held here tomorrow and Saturday.

Industrial, chemical and agricultural representatives from Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Florida are expected to participate.

Carl B. Fritsche, of Dearborn, Mich., managing director of the Farm Chemurgic Council, will sound the keynote of the meeting tomorrow morning in an address outlining its objectives.

Discussions of starch from sweet potatoes will occupy the remainder of the morning program.

The afternoon session will be devoted to scuppernong and other wines. Grape production and legal aspects of wine making will be taken up.

Industrial uses of peanuts and southern vegetable oils will constitute part of the afternoon discussion.

Various products from pine trees will feature discussion at a banquet Friday night.

The Saturday session is to be devoted to reports from the various participating states. The afternoon meeting will include talks on industrial uses of syrup canes and "power alcohol."

NEW USES FOR COTTON

Resolutions adopted at the recently held chemurgic conference in Macon urge immediate establishment of an adequate cotton laboratory, properly financed and equipped with trained personnel, for the purposes of discovering new uses for cotton fiber, in order that the south may increase, or at least maintain, its present production of cotton.

The resolutions adopted by the chemurgic conference are predicated upon the statement that the cotton plant, for each pound of fiber, produces two pounds of human food in its oil and feed for livestock, and it is pointed out that, while it may, under present market conditions, be advisable to curtail the production of cotton, that such a reduction in the crop would result in a parallel reduction in this much-needed human food and feed for livestock.

It is pointed out that today enormous quantities of vegetable oils are being imported annually into this country, imports that would not be needed were it possible to raise a sufficiently large cotton crop. Thus the double advantage to the south of finding sufficient new demand for the fiber to warrant an increase in the annual crop is self-evident.

In this respect it is interesting to note that at the same conference in Macon, Thomas C. Law, of Atlanta, revealed discovery of a new method of making high-quality margarine from vegetable fat without the necessity of churning it in milk, a process hitherto deemed indispensable.

There is an annual underconsumption of approximately 2,000,000,000 pounds of food fats used to supplement the bread diet, according to the United States Bureau of Home Economics. It is easy to realize, therefore, the importance of newly discovered means of making high-grade margarine from vegetable fats.

Thus there is a possible market for 2,000,000,000 additional pounds of cottonseed oil, provided the cotton crop can be increased sufficiently to produce this amount. And the only way to make possible a profitable increase in the cotton crop is by discovery of new uses for

the fiber so that the world demand will be such as to maintain the price at a level sufficiently above cost of production to make it profitable to the grower.

There are, of course, some states which have, shortsightedly, enacted legislation to handicap the sales of margarine. That legislators generally, however, are realizing the mistake of such laws is becoming evident and it is believed their repeal generally will only be a matter of a few years.

While the day of repeal for those laws is approaching, why not devote our effort and time, through proper laboratory work, to the discovery of new uses for cotton fiber so that the south may once again find it profitable to raise her cotton without acreage or yield restrictions?

Nashville, Tenn. Banner
May 25, 1937

Nation's Chemurgic Leaders Ponder Latest Farm Research

Detroit, May 25—(AP)—Men who profess to foresee the day when scientific research will reveal untold new industrial uses for American farm products met here today at the third Dearborn conference of the Farm Chemurgic Council to discuss developments and advancement of the chemurgic movement.

Farmers, educators, and industrialists from all the agricultural areas of the country came to learn what new uses chemists and scientists had devised for utilizing soy beans, corn, peanuts, hemp, sweet potatoes, tung oil, Southern pine, and many other farm products.

Carl B. Fritsche, managing director of the council, said twenty-two states which have formed regional or state groups to promote industrial use of agricultural raw materials had sent representatives to the meeting, which is to continue for three days.

Development of the kraft and newsprint paper industry in the South, utilizing quick growing pine as the source of pulp and manufacture of alcohol from half a dozen farm products for blending with gasoline as a motor fuel were two important subjects for discussion. Alcohol-gasoline blends now are being sold at service stations in seven Midwestern States.

Dr. George Washington Carver, aged Negro educator of Tuskegee Institute, Tuskegee, Ala., whose research work with agricultural products, principally peanuts, has attracted nation-wide attention, was welcomed to the conference last night by Henry Ford, one of the original sponsors of the chemurgic movement.

They chatted for an hour, during which Dr. Carver told of his forty-year effort to help and improve the economic status of the Southern Negro farmer. Dr. Carver has discovered more than 300 uses for peanuts.

One discovery, making "milk" from peanuts, has been found valuable in the diet of infants and as a substitute for cow's milk in remote places where the latter is not always available.

THE SOUTH, CINDERELLA LAND

(An Answer to a Recent Column by Gen. Hugh Johnson)

Chemistry is the fairy godmother that will strike the rags and tags from Dixie and turn the South into a Cinderella land, in the opinion of John E. Edgerton, president of the Southern States Industrial Council.

"The chemist is the answer to those who would feed and clothe the South and at the same time preserve the texture of her personality, to those who would keep her romance and at the same time give her an economic footing on a part with the rest of the nation," Mr. Edgerton declared.

He based his opinion, he said, on the new discoveries being "announced almost every day" by chemists experimenting with Southern farm and forest products and on the many revelations made at the recent meeting of chemurgy experts in Jackson, Miss.

"The new processes for extracting cellulose from cotton plants, starch from sweet potatoes, newsprint from slash pine, various plastic substance from soy beans, alcohol from sugar cane, tung oil from trees grown on our own soils—these will transform the South, but they will not exploit her and leave her bare, as Gen. Hugh S. Johnson declares he fears they might.

"General Johnson wept for the South in his column recently, and beat his chest loudly because such a 'tearful and romantic' part of the nation wished to become industrialized and to compete economically with such unromantic states as New Jersey.

"He is not the only person who has shed tears for the South when they have thought that the industry so badly needed might have to prosper at the expense of regional integrity, when they wondered how this agricultural and 'one-crop' part of the nation could throw off its economic shackles without becoming a land of Babbitts and go-getters.

"Although the story of industry is one of the most entrancing stories of modern times, some of the by-products of the nation's industrial development have not always been desirable. Industry has made much progress, as well as learned many lessons. The South's industry will profit from past mistakes. It will be better planned.

"Most of all, it will be industry adapted naturally to the region designed to use the raw products close at hand and to give employment to workers of the area. Through its use of agricultural products, it will not pull workers into large cities but will be a means of giving them an outlet for their crops to nearly all of which the chemist is giving a cash market value.

"Because of the chemist and the men who are planning Southern industry, I can tell General Johnson to weep no more. The South will keep her magnolias and her romantic nature. At the same time, she will put a little money into the pockets of her people.

"Obviously, General Johnson fell in love with South Carolina and did not get as far as Savannah. If he had gone to Savannah, Dr. Charles Herty could have told him that the newsprint industry will not leave the land desolate.

"The whole secret of Dr. Herty's newsprint discovery is that it is made from a scrub slash pine that reproduces itself in from eight to ten years and is to be planted and harvested regularly just like other farm crops. Thus a waste crop is made the basis of a large new industry and a whole region is thereby enriched."

Mr. Edgerton said that chemists of large manufacturing industries, such as the automotive, had been experimenting with Southern farm products for a number of years and had been responsible for many new cotton and cotton seed uses. To these chemists, as well as the independent ones and those sponsored by the foundations, he gave credit for the new outlet for Southern farm crops.

We Make a Start

President Roosevelt has signed the compromise farm-tenancy bill evidently believing, as we do, that it is better than nothing.

In the United States today two out of every five farmers do not own their own land and 40,000 more farmers each year are losing the status of owners and becoming tenants. The bill is an attempt to cure that condition.

The bill provides that the Department of Agriculture may lend money to landless farmers to enable them to purchase farms. It provides that the farmer may not sell that farm for five years. Five years is not enough limitation. If we are to stop speculation in land and achieve real security of possession for the farmer we must see that the Government has a stronger hold on the land than that. The next Congress should amend the bill so that a beneficiary of the nation's bounty will not be permitted at any time to sell the land which the taxpayers have bought for him, except to another practical farmer under terms approved by the Government.

The bill does not give the Department of Agriculture the right to buy land to be resold to landless farmers. This too should be changed by the next Congress. For purchase of land in a block makes it possible to lay out a farm community, encouraging co-operation; purchase of isolated farms leaves us with one of the conditions that has cursed agriculture.

The next Congress should further strengthen the bill by restoring the civil service provisions which were eliminated from it. In the meantime we trust that Mr. Wallace will administer the act strictly under the merit system, realizing that smartest politics is to avoid politics.

Agriculture - 1937
& Improvement of.

General

BAMBOO AS A FARM CROP

By FRANK A. MONTGOMERY JR.
(From the Scientific American)

On a farm on the Ogeechee river, near Savannah, Georgia, the federal government is conducting experiments with some 275 species of bamboo, with the hope of assisting southern agriculture to meet the domestic demand for this commodity with a steady supply. As a result of these experiments groves have been and are being established in many states where the climate is not too rigorous. With their waving crests and almost impenetrable thickets of round, reed-like stems, these groves are not only commercially valuable but also an attractive addition to the landscape.

About two million dollars' worth of bamboo is imported into the United States each year, and some time ago the Department of Agriculture and other interested organizations and individuals decided to investigate the possibility of growing at least a part of this volume in the South. The results of these painstaking experiments are now becoming available and it may be said that the growing of bamboo will become a source of profit to southern farmers—a crop that may be likened to the fruits of orchards on the farms. Bamboo grown in the South is being used in a variety of ways, and bids fair to become increasingly profitable.

The grove at Savannah is part of a 46-acre farm known as the "Barbour Lathrop Plant Introduction Garden." It was presented to the federal government by Lathrop who has long been interested in collecting bamboo plants. The grove itself was started from Japanese plants imported by a Cuban, Andreas E. Maynelo, and was called to Lathrop's attention as one of the largest groves of bamboo in the United States. When it was purchased and turned over to the government about a decade ago it covered only about half its present area. But it has rapidly increased in size and importance, until at present, bamboo is being shipped from the grove for paper making, the manufacture of tooth-brush handles, yacht masts and booms, flagpoles, plant stakes, fishing poles, radio aerials, furniture, ladders, and many other commodities.

This versatile plant has many other uses. One which is becoming increasingly important in America is the use as food of bamboo shoots, or tips that have just come up out of the ground. These shoots—sliced, peeled, boiled, and served in butter sauce—have been among the favorite dishes of the Orient for centuries. Many Americans have acquired a taste for them and a wider market for the food is gradually being developed, much of the shoots being canned for the trade.

The great timber bamboos which form the spectacular and successful grove in Georgia are also extremely useful in their growing forms. They act as effectual windbreaks and they have a distinct appeal to the landscape gardener. Very little decorative bamboo, however, is to be found in the United States, mainly because people consider it unsuited to the rigors of North America's climate. This is a mistaken idea and it is a fact that bamboo will grow in the East as far north as Maryland. In England and along the South coast of France there are many strikingly beautiful bamboo gardens. Since bamboo is an evergreen, these gardens, from a standpoint of beauty, are as attractive in winter as in summer. In fact, the green of a bamboo grove against a background of snow is a sight long to remember. The Eastern Shore of Maryland offers many such sights during the winter months.

The most important of these plants being grown in the South at present, both in the Savannah grove and elsewhere, is the large Japanese timber bamboo. In Japan, and especially in China, this species is a veritable staff of life to the natives. It produces food and shelter and many of the other necessities and comforts of existence for at least 300,000,000 people. It was, in fact, the ingenuity of Oriental peoples in the utilization of bamboo that first attracted American manufacturers to the possibilities of this remarkable plant, and which has led to the present status of bamboo culture in this country. It was believed that if users of bamboo in this country could have a ready access to a domestic supply, they would develop. The plants grow with great speed, in some varieties as much as sixteen inches in 24 hours, and they reach considerable heights, some in the Georgia groves being 70 feet high.

More and more interest is being shown in this one-time curiosity, until undoubtedly the day is not far distant when a crop of bamboo to the farmers of this country will seem no more unusual than a crop of corn.

THE ADMIRABLE BANKHEADS

The farm tenant bill, recently signed by the President, marks the beginning of the nation's first counter attack upon the plague of tenancy, and the principal honor for the bill's passage goes to Senator John H. Bankhead, of Alabama.

The Birmingham News warmly acclaims the Senator for his classic achievement in an editorial from which we quote as follows:

> If ever anyone deserved a presidential fountain pen, Senator John H. Bankhead deserves the one used by President Roosevelt yesterday in signing the farm tenant bill. The press accounts of the signing do not tell whether the custom is to be followed in this instance. Perhaps this is because Senator Bankhead was absent from Washington, due to Mrs. Bankhead's illness.
>
> At any rate, Senator Bankhead deserves the fullest recognition, whether symbolized by a fountain pen or not, for the passage of this act. The farm tenant legislation was his idea. He "sold" the administration, and then Congress and the country on the idea. He put it through. From beginning to end, it was his bill. Probably if it had not been for John Bankhead, there would be no farm tenant act.
>
> Fountain pen or no fountain pen, Senator Bankhead already has been accorded the honor and recognition due him. One mark of this recognition came when Congress did the unprecedented thing of officially designating the act by Senator Bankhead's name.
>
> The bill itself and the program of economic and social amelioration which it sets in motion will be a monument to John Bankhead, especially if Congress in the years to come carries through the plan in an adequate manner. The beginning now authorized is small. But we know that the blight of farm tenancy can be removed from the experience of some other countries. We can do the same thing in this country if Congress will carry on this long-range program faithfully, enlarging its scope with the years.
>
> Meanwhile, if President Roosevelt can still lay his hands on that particular fountain pen, it would be an appropriate gesture for him to save it for John Bankhead when he returns to Washington.

Senator Bankhead had the benefit of the counsel and zeal of his brother, the Speaker of the House, as well, of course, as the counsel of numerous others. For several years the "Bankhead boys" have been collaborating on a tenant farm measure, and there is a reason for their fine performance.

Two factors entered into the philosophy and spirit of these distinguished Alabamians. The first is that they know what it is to open the earth to make a warm bed for precious seeds. They know what it is to be anxious for the fortune of a crop that is the helpless pawn of the weather and the confusion of man. Many people think of them today as two ruddy-cheeked, pampered sons of a great family who never knew what it was to toil and sacrifice. But the truth is that John and Will Bankhead are old plowboys and hoe hands. The Advertiser knew them before they put on their whiskers. They learned about earth and rain and high interest rates in the isolated county of Lamar, a county which next to Winston, has been visited by fewer Alabamians than any other county among the 67. They worked with their arms and legs and feet in the uncertain soil of Lamar. So did Henry, their army-colonel brother, now retired. So did their father, the late Captain-Congressman-Senator John Hollis Bankhead, of whom more anon.

In those days one worked with his hands and feet or invited nutritional disorders. In those days if one wanted to eat the foods that the Alabama soil yields one plowed and hoed for them. While it was not difficult to make the earth yield a living, it was far from easy to make the soil yield a profit, yet somehow Captain Bankhead an enterprising, aggressive farmer, managed to make the soil yield a profit, even then, and that was a long time ago, indeed it was not very long after Appomattox, when times were hard everywhere, especially in the desolated South.

It was in such an environment that John and Will Bankhead first came to think of the soil and the people who depend upon it for a living.

But the other factor that colored their thinking was their father, "the old Senator". He was a rural economist, a practical statesman and a man of simple tastes. He was one of the most intelligent and one of the most constructive statesmen that sat in Congress in his time. He was the father of Federal aid to good roads. The Advertiser can remember when Senator Bankhead was ridiculed and roundly scoffed for his "demagogic" advocacy of Federal appropriations for roads. But the grandchildren of the present generation will know how the Bankhead Highway came to get its name.

The old Senator advocated many constructive measures for the benefit of agriculture. Always his heart was with the rural fireside. He must have talked long and often to his promising sons about the grief that marks the lives of millions of our rural people. He must have been very

plausible in arguing with them that the beginning of prosperity for the nation is prosperity for men of the soil. He was a rural economist throughout his long life as a statesman at Washington. He was a philosopher and a leader, a man of courage and decisiveness of character. He was a plain, blunt man who made all critical decisions quickly and so got them behind him, for better or for worse.

But his gifts were greater than he realized. Here was a farmer-Senator who never studied law with any view to practicing it, yet upon one occasion he made a notable address on a constitutional issue. In 1913 Senator Joseph F. Johnston died. Governor O'Neal appointed the late Frank P. Glass, famous Alabama publisher, to succeed him. The nation had just changed the method of electing Senators and of filling Senatorial vacancies, from election by State legislatures to popular election. The States were under compulsion to amend their laws providing for the filling of temporary vacancies. Alabama had not yet acted in accordance with the implied mandate of the new amendment. Mr. Glass went to Washington and presented his credentials to the Senate. Immediately there was a battle to determine the authenticity of his credentials. In the end he lost his seat by one vote, due to a breach of faith by the late Senator Benjamin F. Shively, of Indiana, who, presumably too ill to participate in the final vote, had promised not to show up. Had he kept his promise there would have been a tie. In that event Vice-President Marshall (of Indiana) would have broken it and would have voted to seat Mr. Glass. But just before the vote was taken Senator Shively limped weakly into the Senate chamber and cast his vote against the Alabamian. It was a common knowledge in Washington that Shively thus violated his pledge because of pressure from William Jennings Bryan and Senator John W. Kern, of Indiana. Thus Mr. Bryan repaid a day's work that he owed to Mr. Glass. The Advertiser, it may be recalled, was never a Bryan newspaper.

Be all that as it may. Senator Bankhead entered the debate to plead for the credentials of Mr. Glass—incidentally he did this, notwithstanding that in the past there had been sharp political differences between the Senator and the publisher. They were by no means political bedfellows. They were much more disposed to growl when they passed each other. Nevertheless, Senator Bankhead believed that the Governor of Alabama had a constitutional right to appoint an ad interim Senator, even though its laws had not been changed since passage of the direct-election amendment.

Mr. Glass once said to this writer: "Senator Bankhead, a layman who never studied law, nevertheless, made the ablest constitutional argument in my behalf that I heard throughout the debate. It was a truly great speech". (In more recent years Senator Bankhead was vindicated when on the same issue the Senate seated Gerald P. Nye, of North Dakota.)

And so, that's how the "Bankhead boys" came to be what they are. Born of good stock, they inherited good brains and stout character. Born close to the soil they acquired a natural sympathy for the plowman and the man with the hoe. They know what it means to sweat the year round on a farm, pay high interest and at the end of the struggle have only a few noisy silver dollars in one's pocket. That experience accounts for their passion as rural economists Their training under the old Senator accounts for much of their wisdom.

The Advertiser is still proud that in the lush Spring days of 1930 it was the first daily newspaper in Alabama to declare for the nomination of John Hollis Bankhead II for the United States Senate. It has never been disappointed in him. Frequently it has felt a glow of pride at his performance. He is a great American Senator, a honor to a great American family, and The Advertiser wishes to salute him now that he has had his way in forcing through Congress the first humble measure ever written to lessen the evil of farm tenancy.

Editorial of the Day

TITLE FOR THE UNPOSSESSED

(From the Richmond Times-Dispatch.)

When the President attached his signature to the bill authorizing the federal government to lend money to sharecroppers and tenants with which to acquire farm lands and homes, it marked the beginning of a new chapter in the history of the American commonwealth. The government assumed a social responsibility for the unpossessed of American agriculture, just as it had assumed a similar responsibility for the unemployed through the public works and relief programs, and finally and definitely in the social security act. There are also titles that provide for the security of the aged, for the extension of mothers' aid, and for help for the blind and the crippled, in the social security act. The tenancy bill rounds out the administration's cycle of legislation in the interests of social government.

The tenancy bill is far from being all that was desired by the advocates of this form of "agricultural social security." The more thoughtful spokesmen for the tenancy program were in favor of the bill introduced in the senate by Senator Bankhead, of Alabama, which provided for purchase of land by the government and resale to tenants, under provisions which would have insured supervision for a period ranging up to 60 years, or until the land was paid for. The bill signed by the President represents practically a complete victory for the house, which insisted upon a direct loan to tenant purchasers. The advocates of the Bankhead bill rightly fear that the tenancy program provided in the compromise bill, now finally approved, may be endangered by land speculators. Giving the tenant the opportunity to purchase land through government loans is only a beginning. His security of tenure of the land must also be assured.

But the program may be scientifically amended as it goes along, and a beginning has been made in attacking the evils of the tenancy system. The bill authorizes the appropriation of only $10,000,000 for tenant loans in 1938. Nevertheless, a chapter of government has been begun that will progressively increase the security of American democracy and the welfare and happiness of its citizens.

AID TO TENANTS IS PIGEONHOLED

House Committee Refuses to Approve Twenty Million Dollar Appropriation

WASHINGTON, Aug. 16 (AP)—Another social experiment suffered a setback today when the house appropriations committee refused to approve $20,000,000 for the new farm tenancy program.

Congress passed the program, minus funds, weeks ago, and the administration had planned to begin converting tenant farmers into land owners this fall.

However, the appropriations committee declared there is no "emergency" and the program can well be delayed until next year. It was the second time in recent days that a congressional committee has delayed a program endorsed by the administration. The house rules committee has tied up the wage-and-hour bill.

Half of the $20,000,000 was to have been used for loans to tenants to buy farms and the rest to retire certain poor land in the "Dust Bowl" from cultivation.

Jones Will Appeal to House

Chairman Jones (D-Tex.) of the house agriculture committee said he would ask the house to reverse the appropriation committee's decision.

"If I can't get the $10,000,000 for loans to tenants," he said, "I will insist on the $10,000,000 for retirement of submarginal lands."

The $20,000,000 was omitted from a deficiency supply bill, approved by the appropriations committee. The measure carried $78,502,000 for many purposes, including $22,500,000 to build post offices and other public structures.

The sum of $882,000 was clipped from a $1,815,000 supplemental appropriation sought by the national labor relations board.

Senator John H. Bankhead of Alabama said today he was ready for "a determined fight" to get a $10,000,000 item placed in the deficiency bill for the tenant farm program.

The Alabaman, co-author of the tenancy bill, predicted the senate would insert it regardless of house action.

Agriculture-1937
3
Improvement of

General

Cotton's Use In Highways Promises Vast New Market For Dixie's Principal Crop

578 Miles of Test Roads Already Constructed and Possibility of 2,000,000 Miles at 5 to 13 Bales Per Mile Lies Ahead

AN important new market for the South's cotton is promised by the building of cotton roads, 578 miles of which have been constructed on an experimental basis in the United States during the past 18 months under the direction of the United States Bureau of Public Roads and various state highway departments.

These "test strips" have been built in 24 states and their traffic durability, resistance to weather, etc., will be watched for five years. Among the "test strips" are those on Airways Boulevard, leading to the Memphis Airport, and on a highway near Wynne, Ark.

Final reports on these experimental cotton roads will be watched keenly by cotton growers in the South. It has been estimated that there are more than 2,000,000 miles of unimproved roads in the rural sections of the United States on which cotton may be used. The amount of cotton used to manufacture reinforcing road building materials varies from five to 13 bales per mile, depending on the weave. The most practicable fabrics cost between $450 to $750 per mile for a road 18 feet wide.

Approximately 4100 bales of cotton has been used in manufacturing sufficient fabric to treat 1000 miles of experimental highway. As a new outlet for cotton, this amount is negligible compared to the quantities which will be required if the experiments prove successful and cotton-base roads become general throughout the rural United States.

Lower Maintenance Seen

Although too early to tell the exact results of experiments, preliminary reports show that roads primed with ashphaltic oil, covered with loosely woven cotton fabric and crushed mineral aggregate, remain in better condition than those not receiving such treatment, thus lowering cost of maintenance. Cotton roads, possessing more elasticity than roads of ordinary construction suffer less from temperature changes and raveling edges. Failures caused by moisture are reduced to a minimum by the absorbent qualities of the cotton membrane used.

The method of application is as follows: When the base of soil, sand-clay, gravel, crushed stone, slag or other similar material, has been brought to the proper condition by machining and compacting, an application of a liquid bituminous material, asphalt or tar, is spread over it. The cotton fabric may be placed over this coat immediately or laid on it after it is dry. Then a second coat of hot or cold bituminous material is spread and immediately covered with a mineral aggregate such as gravel, crushed stone or slag, and then rolled.

Used on Old Roads, Too

Fabric may be used either in the treatment of new surfaces as described or in what is termed retreatment of an old surface, which is simply the placing of a relatively thin new surface on an old bituminous surface. The method of construction and use of fabric is almost identical with the above, except that the bituminous material used is nearly always applied cold and the aggregate used is smaller in size than that used in the original treatment. Simple machinery has been developed to lay the cotton fabric evenly in strips.

The most common failures in low-cost bituminous roads are raveling of the edges and failures caused by moisture, but placing a strip of fabric along the edges helps hold the mat together at its weakest point. Also, a layer of fabric, placed on top of the base and impregnated with bituminous material, will act as a waterproof membrane and prevent moisture from reaching and disintegrating the untreated base.

Recent reports from state highway departments indicate that short test sections of bituminous surfaced roads, having cotton as part of their construction, have decreased their maintenance costs and require less patching. A sample section of road built between Chapin and Prosperity, S. C., was removed for observation after nine years of service. The cotton fabric was found to be in as good condition as when placed.

For a time experiments were confined to the South, but when the Federal Government, in furthering its cotton program, offered to cooperate with the states in conducting research in cotton roads by supplying proper material for that purpose, requests for fabric came from Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and Washington.

United States Gives Aid

These states were furnished with 6,200,000 yards of cotton membrane at a cost to the Government of $367,000 and have projects under way in a number of sections. Several methods are employed in laying the material. In some states the work is done by hand while in others rollers of fabric are attached to the backs of trucks.

The most successful results in cotton roads have been obtained from cloth of comparatively open weave, with a breaking strength ranging between 25 and 45 pounds grab method, according to grade.

The fabric used ranges in widths from 56 to 90 inches, depending on the width of road surfacing. There are three grades: Type A, weighing 5.30 ounces per square yard at 7.6 cents, with a thread count in each direction of 12 per square inch; Type B, weighing 4.25 ounces per square yard at 6.1 cents, with a thread count of nine per square inch; and Type C, weighing 3.20 ounces per square yard at 4.6 cents, with a thread count of seven per square inch.

Cotton Gains In Usage For Road Paving

Roper Says 10,000,000 Bales May Be Utilized Yearly For Highways

WASHINGTON, Dec. 22.—(AP)—Secretary Roper said today he had received estimates that 10,000,000 bales of cotton a year eventually might be used in highway construction.

He explained that cotton had been used successfully in many states to reenforce bituminous surfaced highways.

The Secretary said the estimate came from experts outside the government.

Roper added that officials of the Agriculture Department and Bureau of Air Commerce had discussed recently the possible use of cotton products in construction of airport runways.

The agriculture marketing division is concerned with greater utilization of cotton products.

The Bureau of Air Commerce announced that arrangements were being made to donate cotton materials to sponsors of airport projects, with a limit of $10,000 per project in the value of material furnished.

The Agricultural Adjustment Administration announced last August that an additional $100,000 had been made available for continuation of work in developing and expanding new uses of cotton. Previously 8,500 bales of surplus cotton had been provided for highway experimental work and about $7,000 for work toward the development of other new uses.

The Agriculture Department has announced that cotton reenforced highways will be tested under all kinds of traffic conditions. The Bureau of Agricultural Economics has sought to design a low-cost, high-quality fabric for the tests. The quantity of cotton used to manufacture the materials developed by the bureau varies from five to eight bales a mile.

The only known experimental "cotton road" was built in South Carolina in 1925. It consists of 200 feet on Route 2 between Chapin and Prosperity.

Agriculture - 1937
6 Improvement of.

General

Wider Use for Cotton Is Predicted If Highway Tests Are Success

Georgia Highway Board Watching Experiments of Federal Bureau on Nevada Stretch With Deep Interest; Projects in This State Contemplated.

(Pictures in Rotogravure Section.)

The Georgia Highway Board is awaiting with deep interest the results of an experiment by the Federal Bureau of Public Roads in the use of a cotton fabric as reinforcement for hard surfaced roads with the hope that if successful the test will bring a new and wide use for cotton, the state's outstanding product.

Chairman W. L. Miller, of the Georgia board, said yesterday that the test is being made by the federal bureau in conjunction with the Nevada State Highway Department on a three-mile stretch of the Pyramid Lake highway in Washoe county, Nevada.

Year's Experiment.

"It will take a year to definitely determine whether the use of this cotton fabric as a road reinforcement is practical," the chairman said. "If it is we will be very happy to use it in Georgia. It will result in a new and wide use of cotton which eventually should bring a great demand for staple not used in ordinary processes."

The federal bureau, it is understood, chose the Nevada project for the first test because of the climate of the western state was said to be particularly suited for the experiment.

A similar project has been launched in the state of North Carolina, but inasmuch as the Nevada experiment was undertaken first, it is expected that the results from the far western state will be those studied first.

North Carolina engineers say they found only one drawback and that is that the cotton fabric road cost between $800 and $1,000 a mile more than the ordinary road and that only time and use would tell if the expenditure was justified.

Chairman Miller said the Georgia Highway Department already had one project prepared for use of the fabric and that more would be made ready for submission to the federal bureau when its Nevada tests are completed.

Project Prepared.

"It will be next spring before we can tell how successful the plan will be," Miller said. "However, in the meantime we will prepare several projects and if the fabric is found all right we will be ready to use some Georgia cotton immediately on our roads."

According to Robert A. Allen, chief engineer of the Nevada State Highway Department, the Pyramid road project is three miles long and the location was determined after a thorough check showed that the traffic, moisture and general climatic conditions were found most suitable.

The Nevada experiment was divided into four short sections of something less than one mile each. One section was treated with the fine mesh, lightweight material, another with a medium grade and a third with coarser and heavier material. A fourth contiguous section, similar in length to the first three, was marked off and given identical road surface treatment, minus the cotton membrane. The fourth section is expected to provide the basis for comparison with the first three.

Membrane Reinforcement.

The bituminous wearing surface consisted of the application of emulsified asphalt and crushed rock or gravel screenings reinforced with the cotton membrane placed upon a compacted oil-treated surface road of uniform grade and cross section.

The road surface consisted of the construction of a compacted, uniform and smooth surface upon the existing roadbed to a minimum width of 20 feet and with a crown of not less than one-tenth. The present surface was scarified and reshaped to eliminate all depressions and other irregularities. Sufficient water was applied to facilitate compaction after which the surface was rolled with a power roller.

After the surface was properly shaped a prime coat of asphaltic road material of the slow curing A type was spread over the surface width of 20 feet at the rate of one-fourth to one-third a gallon per square yard. It then was permitted to dry. The surface then was swept free of all loose material by both hand and power brooms.

After the prime coat became thoroughly dried a tack coat of approximately one-eighth of a gallon of penetration emulsion was applied. Immediately after the tack coat the cotton membrane, which comes in rolls of about 500 feet long, was spread longitudinally in overlapping strips, covering the full width of the primed surface. Crushed rock or gravel screenings was then spread on the cotton membrane reinforcing materials at the rate of approximately 20 pounds to each square yard. A second application of penetration emulsion was then applied at the rate of one-fourth to three-eighths of a gallon. Crushed rock or gravel screenings again were applied, this time at the rate of 10 pounds for each square yard. The road again was swept, this time with a power broom and again rolled with a self-propelling roller.

Special Equipment.

To facilitate the laying of the cotton membrane the maintenance division of the Nevada State Highway Department devised and built at its Reno shops a mobile unit light enough to be hauled by two workmen. Upon this mobile unit receptables for two spindles were fastened. One cotton roll, being comparatively light in weight was placed on one of these spindles and mounted upon the mobile drag unit. From this unit the cotton membrane unraveled freely, engineers reporting as much as 1,800 feet of the cotton-surfaced roads being treated in one single day.

At the selected starting point on the Pyramid highway the end of the cotton roll was fastened to the surface. The spindle unit was then drawn forward, the fabric unraveled and two workers, one on each side, trampled the edges of the fabric into proper alignment. After laying the fabric was fastened to the road surface sufficiently to hold in place. The strips were laid with an overlap of about eight inches each.

Washoe county, where the test is being made, is in extreme western Nevada, bordering on California.

Chairman Miller said that when the experiment has been completed it was highly possible that the Georgia Highway Department would send its own engineers to Nevada to study the results.

"The highway department believes that anything it can do to foster the development of cotton products means much to our state," Miller said. "Wherever possible in our road program we are using materials which can be obtained in Georgia."

5,000,000 JOBS GOAL OF CHEMURGIC BODY

Council Proposes To Create New Industries

WOULD BENEFIT FARMERS

Agricultural Income, Factory Pay Rolls Expected To Climb To $15,000,000,000 Each In 10-Year Program

By International News Service

DEARBORN, Mich., Sept. 20.—The Farm Chemurgic Council—alliance of scientists, industrialists and farm leaders sponsored by Henry Ford—today announced a goal of creating 5,000,000 jobs by new industries during the next 10 years.

These new industries, the F. C. C. said, would be fed by products grown on 50,000,000 acres farmland.

Aids Farm, Industry

At the same time, the declaration said attainment of its goal would assure farmers of an annual income of $15,000,000,000 a year and send factory pay rolls to the same figure.

The peak in farm income and factory pay rolls, even during the best boom years, was about $12,000,000,000 each.

As a substitute for crop control, the council suggested that chemists find new uses for farm crops in industry. Factory pay rolls are dependent on farm income, it was said.

"When farm income goes up, factory pay rolls invariably follow, but they do not lead the procession," the statement continued.

New industries are necessary, it was pointed out, because "following on the heels of any depression, new methods and new industries usually furnish employment for two-thirds of the idle, only one-third return to their old jobs."

"Therefore why not develop the hitherto unsuspected wealth of the vegetable kingdom where the number of new opportunities is legion?"

Not only will the program help industry and the farmer, but "most important of all, no longer will the youth of America, urban and rural, be puzzled over a meaning of a life that offers meager opportunity for honest effort," it said.

Since birth of the council in May, 1935, approximately $150,000,000 was invested in new chemurgic industries. The major portion, $96,750,000, represents new pulp, kraft paper and newsprint mills in the South, where Southern pine from farm acres feeds the paper factories.

It also was stated there now were more than 300 food and industrial products made from the soybean, and the 1937 crop was estimated at 50,000,000 bushels. Dr. W. L. Burlison of the University of Illinois predicted that so variable were possible uses of soybean that within a score of years this new crop may equal in money value the annual corn crop.

Other chemurgic industries were listed as plastics; tung oil; production of root starch from Southern sweet potatoes; new vegetable oil extraction plants; new uses for vegetables fibres; cellulose, synthetic yarns and naval stores.

Courtesy United States Bureau of Public Roads

Unrolling cotton fabric on primed gravel base near Scott, Miss.

578 MILES OF ROAD BUILT WITH COTTON

Southern States Experiment With Fiber Held to Cut Cost of Maintenance

PAVEMENT RECORDS KEPT

Federal Bureau Observes Use of Mats to Determine Their Value With Concrete

By S. R. WINTERS

Some 578 miles of "cotton roads" have been constructed throughout the United States within the past year. Twenty-four States, cooperating with the Bureau of Public Roads of the United States Department of Agriculture, have been supplied with special cotton fabrics for use in experimental construction of rural highways.

Results of these experiments will be reported to the bureau for the purpose of determining the effectiveness of cotton membrane in preventing cracking, raveling and failures in bituminous-surfaced pavements.

Alabama, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee report completion of nearly forty miles of new cotton highways up to Sept. 1. Both single and double treatments have been used to test durability. While other cooperating States will report periodically upon their projects, cotton experiments in these four States will be under direct observation of the Government for five years. Records will be kept pertaining to volume of traffic, dates of completion of projects, construction and maintenance costs. By these records it is hoped that definite conclusions will be reached in determining the economic value in use of cotton in modern road building.

Lower Maintenance Seen

Although too early to tell the exact results of experiments, preliminary reports show that roads primed with asphaltic oil, covered with loosely woven cotton fabric and crushed mineral aggregate, remain in better condition than those not receiving such treatment, thus lowering cost of maintenance. Cotton roads, possessing more elasticity than roads of ordinary construction suffer less from temperature changes and raveling edges. Failures caused by moisture are reduced to a minimum by the absorbent qualities of the cotton membrane used.

Moisture failures have been frequent in the past, due to water reaching untreated bases and causing roads to sink and crack. It is believed that a layer of cotton fabric, such as has been perfected recently, covered with bituminous material will act as waterproofing and eliminate disastrous effects of moisture seepage. To prevent edge failures and minimize the resulting traffic hazard, strips of cotton fabric are used along the edges to hold the mat together and prevent crumbling at its weakest point.

Experiments in "cotton roads" have been in progress for twenty-five years. The initial project was undertaken in New England when automobile roads were first under construction on Cape Cod. At that time, cotton fabric was laid on sand to secure a non-shifting surface for base materials. The Southern States, always on the alert to new uses for their chief agricultural product, commenced experiments shortly thereafter with excellent results.

Use Is Spreading

For a time experiments were confined to the South, but when the Federal Government, in furthering its cotton program, offered to cooperate with the States in conducting research in cotton roads by supplying proper material for that purpose, requests for fabric came from Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia and Washington.

These States were furnished with 6,200,000 yards of cotton membrane at a cost to the Government of $367,000 and have projects under way in a number of sections. Several methods are employed in laying the material. In some States the work is done by hand, while in others rollers of fabric are attached to the backs of trucks.

The most successful results in cotton roads have been obtained from cloth of comparatively open weave, with a breaking strength ranging between twenty-five and forty-five pounds, grab method, according to grade.

Growers Are Hopeful

Final reports on experimental cotton roads will be watched keenly by cotton growers in the South. It has been estimated that there are over 2,000,000 miles of unimproved roads in rural sections throughout the United States. The amount of cotton used to manufacture reinforcing cotton materials varies from five to thirteen bales per mile, depending on the weave. The most practicable fabrics cost between $450 and $750 per mile for a road eighteen feet wide.

During the 1936 program approximately 4,100 bales of cotton were used in manufacturing sufficient fabric to treat 1,000 miles of highway. As a new outlet for cotton this amount is negligible compared to the quantities which will be required if experiments prove to be successful.

Recent reports from State highway departments indicate that short test sections of bituminous-surfaced roads, having cotton as part of their construction, have decreased their maintenance costs and require less patching. A sample section of road built between Chapin and Prosperity, S. C., was removed for observation after nine years of service. The cotton fabric was found to be in as good condition as when placed. The South Carolina Highway Department has used cotton fabric on bridge surfaces also with a marked degree of improvement in maintaining a satisfactory bituminous surface.

Used in Concrete Construction

Cotton is playing an important part in curing concrete highways. Under experiments for "diversion of surplus agricultural products from normal channels of trade," the Department of Agriculture has perfected cotton mats from one to three inches thick to take the place of straw, wet earth or burlap which has been used to prevent exposure of concrete pavements to sun or freezing temperatures. Wetted and placed over newly poured concrete, cotton pads have been effective in affording uniform curing due to their moisture-retaining qualities. Experiments conducted under all weather conditions have been successful.

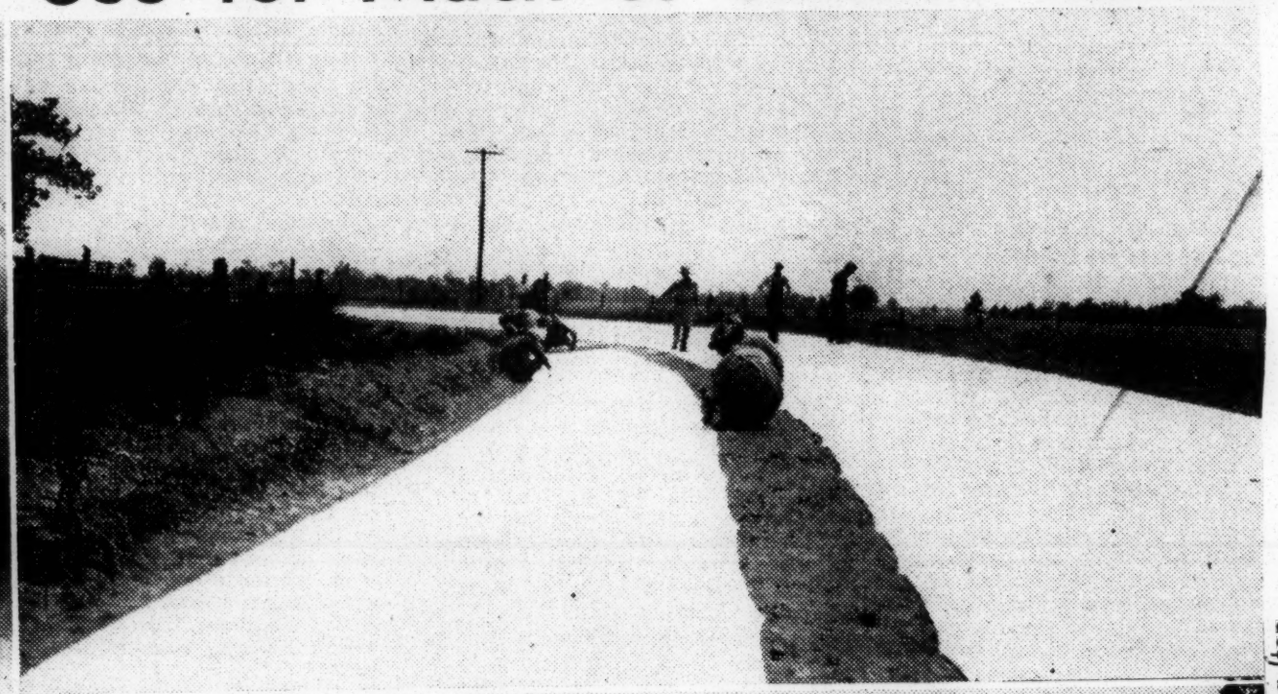
During 1936 twenty-three States were supplied with more than 89,000 of these mats by the government. They cost about $157,000 and required nearly 3,000,000 yards of cotton fabric for their manufacture.

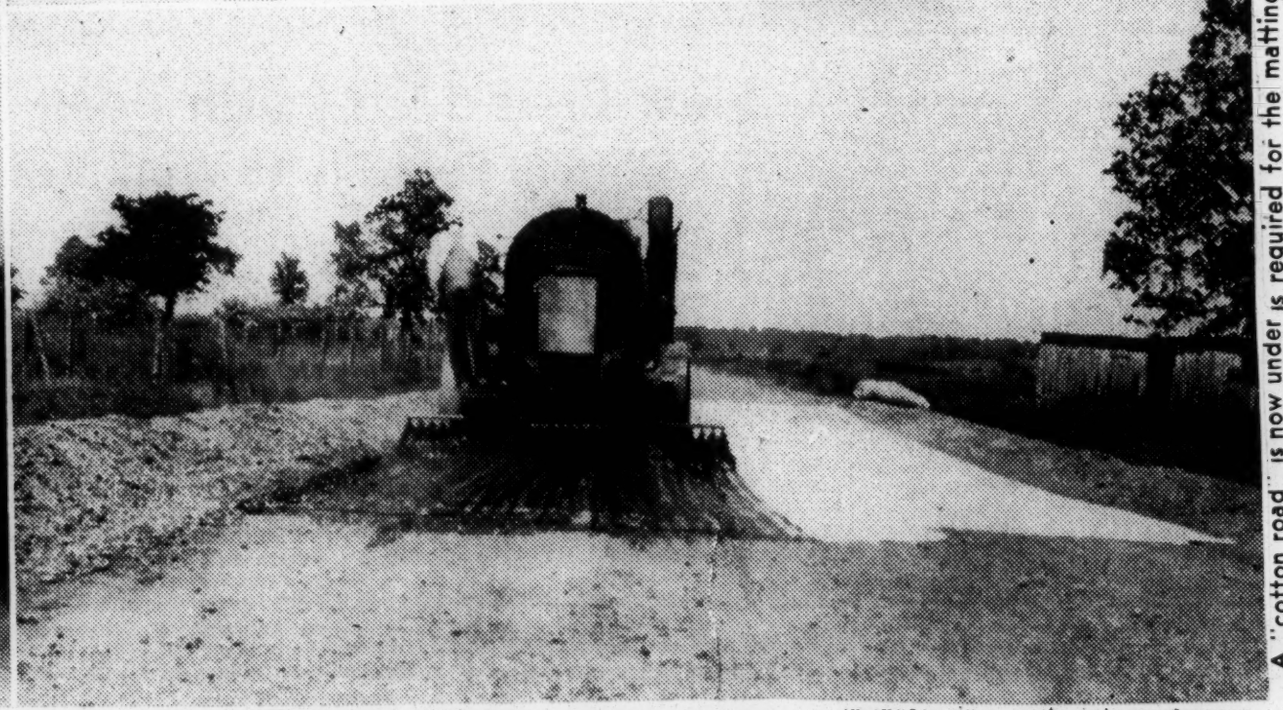
While more than $500,000 was spent by the Federal Government in furthering the use of cotton for road projects during 1936, figures for this year to date indicate that this expenditure will be increased by a considerable amount.

General

Agriculture – 1937
Improvement of.

Road Building Seen As Use for Much of South's Cotton





A "cotton road" is now under is required for the matting (top construction near Wynne as an right and bottom left) workmen experiment of the Arkansas unroll the matting from big Highway Department. Rolls of bolts and (bottom right) the as- cotton matting are used after phalt is being poured. Gravel which it is "shot" with a seal is added to complete the coating of asphalt. Four steps base. in the construction are shown above: (top left) a clean surface

Arkansas and Tennessee Become Proving Grounds For Experiment In Cotton

Four Different Construction Methods Used on Highway 1 Sector Between Wynne and Vanndale To Determine Best for Traffic

BUILDING of highways in the United States may be revolutionized and a possible market created for thousands of pounds of cotton by the experiments that are now under way on Airways Boulevard, ust east of Memphis and on Highway 1 in Eastern Arkansas between Wynne and Vanndale. In both experiments cotton base highways are being built of the type introduced n that the features of each will be in two or three nearby Southern ried out in this short five and a states, but different from the others half mile stretch in Arkansas.

Halted frequently by difficulties in procuring materials and unfavorable weather conditions, the joint project of the Works Progress Administration and the Arkansas State Highway Department was started 11 months ago and is still far from completion.

Possibilities of the use of cotton as a road base were brought to the attention of the Arkansas Highway Department by experiments in South Carolina, where the first cotton road was built in 1926. Sponsors of the new type of construction there de-

clared that the results were more than satisfactory.

In Heart of Cotton Realm

When the State Highway Commission decided last year to try out the plan, numerous locations were considered before a selection was made. It was largely through the efforts of Dave Block of Wynne, then highway commissioner, that the Wynne to Vanndale stretch was chosen. Traffic counts showed Highway 1 as one of the most heavily traveled unpaved routes in the state and a real test of the new paving was assured in its selection. And what could be more fitting than that the state's first cotton road should be placed in the heart of King Cotton's empire?

A project was prepared by the Highway Department, submitted to the WPA, and subsequently approved. Under terms of the project, a total of $62,792.93 was set aside for the work, with the sponsor furnishing $25,990.63 and WPA providing the remainder.

Road Base Completed

After almost a year of work by crews of both the WPA and Highway Department, the road base has been completed and asphalt is being applied to the surface.

Cotton used in the base was in the form of loosely woven matting, slightly thicker than heavy tow-sacking and of the color of unbleached yarn. Three different weights of the matting were used to determine which will be the most effective.

One type of matting has 12 threads to the inch, a minimum average breaking strength of 45 pounds, and weighs 53 ounces per square yard. A second type has nine threads to the inch and a breaking strength of 35 pounds, and the third is even lighter with seven threads to the inch and a breaking strength of 25 pounds.

Seven and one-half bales of cotton were used for each mile of construction with the heavier type, and six and one-half bales and five bales per mile were used with the second and third types respectively. The cotton matting was furnished by the Government.

Four different construction methods were used in alternating strips of one-half mile each in the road base. On the first half mile the cotton matting was laid directly on the road bed, a six-inch layer of gravel added, and a second strip of matting placed on top of the gravel to receive the asphalt surface.

On the next half-mile only the bottom strip of cotton matting was used and the asphalt will be applied on the top of the gravel layer. The bottom matting was omitted on the next stretch and the cotton used on top of the gravel, and on the fourth half mile no cotton was used.

Which Is Best?

Use of the completed road will determine which of the types stands up best under traffic and may lead to the introduction of that type all over the state.

The road is 18 feet in width and is costing approximately $12,000 per mile, 60 per cent less than the cost of concrete and 20 per cent more than the cost of ordinary asphalt without the use of the cotton base.

Sponsors of cotton as a road base claim that it prevents rounding, cracking and potholing, keeps the base from forcing up through the surface, insures a more comfortable riding surface, enables the use of standard construction methods in placement, and that the economy of maintenance will offset the added cost over ordinary asphalt roads.

L. W. Hall of Wynne is resident engineer on the project for the Highway Department. W. D. Lancaster is superintendent for the Highway Department, and E. E. Turner is superintendent for the WPA.

Manufacture of Cotton Picker Will Begin Soon

International Harvester Head Says Development of Mechanical Device Makes Practical Commercial Production

NEW YORK. —(ANP)— Sydney G. McAllister, president of the International Harvester company, this week revealed that development of the mechanical cotton picker has reached the point where manufacture on a commercial basis is practical. If the machine is adopted generally it will replace the labor of thousands of cotton pickers in the South, the majority of whom are Negroes.

The Harvester company executive said he believed the change in the method of picking cotton will be a gradual development and accompanied by a minimum disruption of the social and economic order. He said:

"Economists tell us that the American cotton growing industry, providing a livelihood for 100 millions persons, must choose one of two courses. It can continue to restrict production, thereby reducing acreage and cutting down the number of people employed, thus limiting its output to domestic demand, or it can seek to regain the larger share of the foreign market which it held before 1930, when for half a century American cotton growers had produced 60 percent of the world's cotton.

"Our industry cannot choose which of these courses the South will take. That is for others to decide and we hope they decide wisely. If the South wants a mechanical picker, industry will supply it.

Experts Claim Cotton Picker Will Displace Half Million Men

WASHINGTON, Oct. 24.— (AP) — Agricultural economists of the Works Progress Administration declared today a growing interest in the mechanical cotton picker might lead to displacement of half a million field hands within five or 10 years.

In a report to Administrator Harry Hopkins, they said a widespread use of the picking machine might bring other important changes in production of cotton—a reduced number of tenants and sharecroppers, greater use of machinery in other phases of mechanized tillage and harvest, and an increase in the fact that picking cotton by hand is slow and tedious work.

Society To Gain

"In the long run, society will gain by any reduction in the man-hours required to produce a given quantity of cotton."

The economists said, however, the mechanical picker at its present stage fails to get all the cotton in the field, it loses part of the seed, and places trash and discoloration in the lint.

They estimated the cost of machine harvesting, at $1.65 a hundred pounds, compared to $1 a hundred for hand picking. They added, therefore, that "the mechanical picker in its present stage of development is not likely to take the cotton belt by storm."

An improved two-row, twice-over machine having a longer life and requiring only one operator, the report said, might lower the cost of mechanical picking to about 65 cents a hundred—assuming cotton left in the field could be reduced to three per cent and the loss from lowered quality to eight per cent.

"Successful one and two-row machines, if developed," it said, "might in the course of perhaps 10 years be applied to an upper limit of about half the present cotton acreage and displace a maximum of two million hand pickers for the picking season of about 40 work-days.

"The displacement of half a million pickers within a period of five to ten years appears more probable, however."

To Grow Gradually

The spread of the machine, it said, probably will be gradual rather than sudden, because "rapid mechanization has occurred only where the financial rewards have been high or labor shortage acute."

The report cited a long list of important changes which probably would follow a general use of the picking machine.

First, mechanical picking on half the cotton crop would save about 800,000,000 man-hours or approximately two million workers.

Second, mechanization of pre-harvest labor probably would save 20 to 30 man-hours an acre in the Mississippi delta section.

Third, since men would be required to operate mechanical pickers, relatively fewer men than women and children would be displaced.

Fourth, labor required to raise work stock and to grow feed would be reduced, while that for manufacturing machinery would be increased.

Fifth, there would be an increase in the size of cotton farms, which now average only about 15 acres. As a consequence, there would be less tenants and sharecroppers.

Would Aid Foreign Growers

Sixth, production probably would be increased in Australia, Brazil and Argentina, where there is an abundance of land suited to mechanized cotton production.

Seventh, cotton production would be withdrawn from unsuited lands. The picker would be used first on level lands, such as those in the Mississippi delta area.

General

Agriculture - 1937
Improvement of.

Cotton Fabric on Highways

The State Highway Department has announced that plans for its first experiment in using cotton fabric in highway construction will be made on a five-mile stretch of the Macon-to-Cochran road in Bibb county.

Chairman Miller says his attention has been called to the use of this fabric on roads that are being built in Nevada and North Carolina and since he feels that the use of cotton products on highways is far more important to Georgia than to those two states the board has decided to proceed with this project at once. He thinks the highway in Bibb county is best suited for the test. The board feels that the road will withstand much more than ordinary highways and if this proves to be the case the fabric will be used exclusively.

It is gratifying to know that this experiment will be made in Bibb county. It is even more gratifying to know that definite efforts are being made, not only in Georgia but in other states to bring about this new use for the South's principal product.

When all the economic planners have had their say, the fact will still remain that underconsumption and not overproduction of any crop grown in this country is the great obstacle to our prosperity. Time and again the president has referred to one-third of the population as being "ill-fed, ill-clothed and ill-housed." It seems obvious that if this large proportion of our population is ill-clothed, there must be an acute need for more cotton fabrics than are now being made and sold. If one-third of the population is ill-fed, we need to produce more of everything to eat that is grown on the farms. If one-third of our people are ill-housed, we must have more timber, steel products and everything else which goes into the building of homes.

Industrial chemistry has already wrought marvels. It has pointed out many new uses that could be made of our cotton crop. This is without taking into consideration the question of a tariff on jute, which would exclude that import and make way for more cotton twine.

The federal government has been contributing towards highway construction on a definite plan ever since the Bankhead bill was passed in 1916 and yet we have hardly begun in the matter of building highways. It would be impossible to estimate just how many millions of bales of cotton could be used in building highways alone if it should prove that cotton fabric is best adapted for this type of construction. As a matter of fact, experiments on a small scale have been carried out for several years and it is our information that they have proved satisfactory.

The experiment that is to be made in Bibb county will be watched with special interest and may open up new markets for millions of bales of our chief staple.

COTTON FOR HIGHWAYS

If the experiments now being made in Nevada, and planned for Georgia and North Carolina, prove that the use of cotton membrane in road construction results in better and longer-lived highways, a new use for the southern staple will have been developed which will have far-reaching effect upon the future of cotton production.

This is one of the outstanding developments in efforts to discover new uses for cotton, to widen the market and thus reduce, for the future, the likelihood of overproduction and its consequent drop in prices.

It will, as pointed out by the Georgia Highway Board, be at least a year before the tests now under way in Nevada can provide conclusive data. The use of a cotton membrane base to bind the road-making material together increases the initial cost of the work. It is believed that the resultant roads, however, will be so much better and will resist the wear of travel and of weather conditions so much more effectively that the roads will remain serviceable for twice the time of roads without the cotton base.

If this proves true, the economy of cotton in road construction will be self-evident. The added initial cost will be many times repaid in lower maintenance costs and in longer life for the highway.

The south will watch the experiments in Georgia and other states with keenest interest, for on their outcome depends the development of a new and important market outlet for the south's most important product.

RACE FARMER TO BENEFIT

New Agricultural Program To Aid Colored Group

WASHINGTON, D.C.—(A N P)—I. W. Duggan, Acting Director of the Southern Division of the AAA, interviewed this week by ANP, gave assurance that the Federal program to aid farmers of the South will be administered impartially and without reference to creed or color. Mr. Duggan declared:

"The 1938 Agricultural Conversation Program, announced by Secretary Wallace offers all farmers, including Negro farmers, the opportunity of participating in the national movement to conserve soil fertility and raise the farm income through a better balanced system of agricultural production.

"Following former Agricultural Adjustment programs in its broad objectives, the new program sets up goals for balancing the crops and building up the soil on each farm. The payment to all farmers joining in this program will be in proportion to their performance in achieving their goals, but a change in the methods of dividing the payments between landlord and sharecropper assures sharecroppers who help carry out soil-conserving practices a larger share of the returns.

"This will be of special interest to the Negro farmers of the Southern states. The payments, in the main, will be divided between owner and tenant in the proportion that they share in the crops and soil-conserving practices carried out. In the case of a sharecropper receiving half of the cotton and carrying out half of the soil- conserving practices, his share of the agricultural conservation payment would be half. If the sharecropper shoud carry out all of the soil-conserving practices, he would get a larger part of the payment in proportion. It is expected that the average share of payment going to sharecroppers will be 75 per cent more than the average under this year's program.

"I appreciate the part that Negro farmers have taken in this program and in building Southern agriculture; and it is my attention, as long as I am in charge of the program in the Southern Region, to try to administer it without reference to any farmer's race, creed or political belief."

Road Bureau Uses Cotton Fabric On 500 Miles of Test Highways

Value of Cotton Base Will Not Be Determined Until Roads Begin To Deteriorate. Methods of Construction Explained by Senior Engineer.

By GLADSTONE WILLIAMS.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 13.—Although cotton fabric has not yet been established as a standard for government road construction, experiments with this southern staple in bituminous road building since 1926 by the Bureau of Public Roads, Washington, has proved eminently satisfactory, R. E. Royall, senior highway engineer of the bureau, said today.

"We do not yet know the true value of cotton fabric as a road builder," he declared, "but sections of cotton roads in various parts of the country, with which we have been experimenting, are now in excellent condition. The very newest developments in the use of cotton fabrics is being thoroughly investigated by this bureau and when these experimental roads have been subjected to a usage that produces deterioration, we will know the value of cotton in highway construction. In other words, cotton fabric will have to go through a life's history before definite and conclusive results can be obtained."

Mr. Royall explained that the life's history of cotton fabric might be two, three or more years and that inasmuch as the bureau started only last year to experiment "earnestly" with cotton fabric in road construction, it would probably be a year or more before definite results could be charted.

Former Georgian.

According to Royall, who got his start as a student engineer in 1912 on the Southern Railway between Atlanta and Gainesville, Ga., the first stretch of road in the United States to be constructed of cotton fabric was begun in the coastal region of South Carolina in 1926, and not in Nevada, as has been erroneously reported. In fact, according to Royall, Nevada is not even conspicuous in the construction of this type of roadbed, because, to date, more than 500 miles of cotton fabric roads have been constructed in Alabama, North and South Carolina and Tennessee, with a five-mile stretch of the new Macon-Cochran, Georgia, road to be started soon, with cotton fabrication, by Chairman W. L. Miller, of the Georgia State Highway Department.

Investigations of the value of cotton fabric in bituminous road construction are being made by the federal government because of a desire on the part of the Bureau of Roads, Department of Agriculture, to find a valuable use for a product of such vital importance to the south as cotton, and to improve the serviceability of low-cost bituminous roads by eliminating failures, retarding deterioration and reducing maintenance costs. While the use of cotton is still in the experimental stage, 24 states have already used cotton fabric in surfacing nearly 6,000,000 square yards, or more than 500 miles of 20-foot roadway. The fabric was supplied by the Department of Agriculture.

"All of these roads," Royall said, "are being watched carefully to determine the results."

Present Projects.

Experimental road constructed by the highway departments of Alabama, North and South Carolina and Tennessee have been selected by the bureau for its own intensive observation. Projects in these states are as follows:

In Alabama, nine miles of cotton treated bituminous road northeast from Scottsboro in Jackson county; in North Carolina, 14 1-2 miles between Clinton and Faison, Sampson and Duplin counties; in South Carolina, six miles southeast of Saluda to Ridge Spring, in Saluda county, and in Tennessee, eight miles on state route 48 between Charlotte and Clarksville in Dickson and Montgomery counties.

Preliminary surveys of the subgrades and bases of these projects, according to Royall, were made so that differences could be eliminated or taken into account in studying the results. Numerous sections of road with various types of fabric and adjacent sections identical in all respects except that fabric has been omitted, are now under constant observation by federal authorities.

Grades of Fabric.

The fabric used is of relatively open weave and ranges in width from 56 to 90 inches, depending upon the width of road surfacing. There are three grades: Type A weighing 5.30 ounces per square yard at 7.6 cents, with a thread count in each direction of 12 per square inch; type B, weighing 4.25 ounces per square yard at 6.1 cents with a thread count of 9 per square inch, and type C, weighing 3.20 ounces per square yard at 4.6 cents, with a thread count of 7 per square inch.

"The most common failures in low-cost bituminous roads," Royall declared, "are raveling of the edges and failures caused by moisture. It was thought that placing a strip of fabric along the edge might help hold the mat together at its weakest point. It was also thought that a layer of fabric placed on top of the base and impregnated with bituminous material, might act as a waterproof membrane and prevent moisture from reaching and disintegrating the untreated base. In our experiments cotton strips were placed either along the edges only or covering the entire surface longitudinally, with the strips overlapping each other 2 or 3 inches at the junctions. Ordinarily, 3 or more strips are used to cover the entire road width.

"The method of application is as follows: When the base of soil sand-clay, gravel, crushed stone slag or other similar material has been brought to the proper condition by machining and compacting, an application of a liquid bituminous materal, asphalt, or tar is spread over it. The cotton fabric may be placed over this coat immediately or laid on after it is dry. Then a second coat of hot or cold bituminous material is spread and immediately covered with a mineral aggregate such as gravel, crushed stone or slag and then rolled.

"Fabric may be used either in the treatment of new surfaces as described or in what is termed retreatment of an old surface, which is simply the placing of a relatively thin new surface on an old bituminous base. Simple machinery has been developed to lay the cotton fabric evenly in strips.

Early Experiments.

"Prior to 1936, the experimental roads in which fabric had been used were short in length and were located in scattered areas of several states. One of the best known experiments was made on a road built in South Carolina in 1926. Lack of information on the cost of construction and maintenance of these roads has made it impossible to determine whether the benefits were commensurate with the cost. Obviously, to learn the value of cotton fabric in road construction, it is necessary to study roads of lengths sufficient to give reliable costs data and so constructed that the only variable is the presence or absence of the cotton fabric.

"An opportunity to obtain such data was presented when the Department of Agriculture was authorized by congress to purchase large quantities of cotton for the purpose of promoting its use in new fields. Accordingly, in the spring of 1936, the department offered to furnish without charge to the state highway departments a considerable quantity of cotton fabric of types suitable for the purpose. The fabric was made available to the states on condition that it be used in highways constructed in an approved manner and that careful data be obtained regarding service behavior and cost of maintenance so that future evaluations might be made of the benefits derived."

All experimental roads in the country, according to Royall, are to be kept under observation for five years or until they no longer have value as experiments. Comparisons between cotton and non-cotton sections will not be possible until deterioration begins. Experimental sections that have been in service for one year as yet give no positive indications. The data recorded should indicate whether cotton fabric has real value in extending the life of bituminous pavements and in reducing maintenance costs. Also it should be possible to determine the type of fabric that is best for a given road condition.

"Cotton roads," he said, "are not, as one might suppose, roads built of cotton, but are bituminous roads built in the usual manner in all respects except that they contain a layer of a loosely woven cotton fabric."

Agriculture-1937
Improvement of.

General

Negro Farmer Is Good Risk In Federal Loans, Says Official

AUSTIN.—"The Negro farmer is paying back his loans to the various loan agencies of the Federal government just as promptly and more so than any racial group," said Joseph H. B. Evans of the Resettlement Bureau of the U. S. Government in an address delivered before the Social Economic Conference which convened at Samuel Huston college, June 3rd.

The theme of the conference was "Changing Situations in Texas Negro Life." The aim of the gathering was to conduct discussions, assemble facts and make plans for remedying conditions existing especially in the rural areas throughout the state It was found, for instance, that Negro farm owners in certain counties were losing their holdings to an alarming degree.

Mr. Evans who came as a special advisor to the conference made the following definite suggestions to the group: First, that Credit Unions be formed in the various Texas communities. These unions would have the status of any other like organization. The members would invest small sums in them to be used as loans to those deserving at a small rate of interest. These loans would be goverment backed and supervised. Second, that Cooperatives among Negroes be organized. He cited instances where such organizations had been organized and had proved both successful and profitable to their members. Third, that through various organized groups contacts could be made with the many branches of the Federal government interested in the plight of the farmer; and fourth, that any gorup, whether it be school, church or community be impressed with the importance of thrift.

Throughout the sessions, Mr. Evans stressed the need of organization among Negroes and the need for presenting facts and findings and requests in careful well-worded form. He stated that Negroes need not be afraid to make their requests as Negroes, since better results are achieved when definite facts are available.

Mr. Evans furthed indicated a desire to have in his desk in Washington a copy of the entire proceedings of the Conference.

Among others who delivered addresses to the delegates and helped to guide the conference were Messrs. G. F. Worley and D. B. Taylor of the State Department of Education; Mrs. I. W. Rowan Home and County Demonstrator Mr. L. B. Kinchion, State Director of the Pythians; Miss N. B. Jenkins State Supervisor of Rural Education; and Dr. C. Ralstine Yerwood of the State Department of Health.

President Grannum in welcoming the delegates to Samuel Huston College and stating the purpose of the conference said: "The welfare of the Negro farmer affects the life of all of us in school, church and lodge. What happens to him is largely the responsibility of those who live in his immediate environment." President Grannum further stressed the importance of the Negro farmer to American life and to his own state. He called attention to the various governmental relief programs in which the Negro farmer is entitled to share, saying, "The farmer represents America's most man."

He cited statistics to indicate that the Negro farmer in Texas is losing his land to an alarming degree. According to the census of 1930 there were 86,063 farm owners in the state; by 1935, the number had fallen to 71,785.

The conference was divided into four study units, each making specific investigations. as follows:

1. Current Economic Problems relating to Land Ownership
2. Employment and Related Problems in Rural Areas.
3. The Relation of Eduducational Programs to the Economic and Social Situations of the Negro.
4. Health and Housing Problems.

Dr. C. Ralstine Yerwood of the State Department of Health spoke concerning health and housing problems throughout the state and told of the existing conditions among Negroes and of the plans of her department to rehabilitate.

Farm Tenancy Bill Approved; Provides $85,000,000 As Aid

WASHINGTON, July 2.—(AP)—The Senate joined the House today in approving an $85,000,000 Federal outlay in the next three years to help tenants and sharecroppers become farm owners.

After two days of debate, it passed the Bankhead bill as a substitute for rival legislation voted Tuesday by the House, and then referred the legislation to a conference committee to adjust differences.

Both measures call for an initial $10,000,000 expenditure, followed by $25,000,000 next year and $50,000,000 in 1940, but the Senate proposed establishment of a farmers' home corporation to buy and sell lands while the House favored loans direct to purchasers.

It was the first such legislation to win approval of both branches. The Senate approved two years ago a similar bill by Senator Bankhead (D), Alabama, which would have authorized a $1,000,000,000 bond issue, but the House failed to act.

President Roosevelt, the Alabamian told the Senate, approved his measure after the authorized expenditure had been trimmed from the $50,000,000 a year originally proposed.

In recognition of efforts of Bankhead and Chairman Jones (D), Texas, of the House agriculture committee the Senate broke precedent by voting to make the title "the Bankhead-Jones farm tenancy act."

Minority Leader McNary (R), Oregon, commented this was the first official designation of an act by the names of its sponsors in congressional history.

The bill went through without a record vote after escaping the peril of an incipient filibuster directed against a measure by Senator McCarran (D), Nevada, to limit freight trains to 70 cars.

McCarran ended the threat of delay by announcing he would not ask consideration of his measure at present.

The Senate defeated a proposal by Senator O'Mahoney (D), Wyoming, to put officials and employes of the projected farmers home corporation under civil service, but adopted other amendments, including one by O'Mahoney, to require presidential appointment and Senate confirmation of the three directors.

The chamber also adopted amendments directing distributions of loans among States on the basis of population and prevalence of tenancy, and limiting gross overhead administrative expense to $400,000 a year. They were offered by Senator Bailey (D), North Carolina.

Urging approval of the tenancy legislation, Senator Bilbo (D), Mississippi, told his colleagues "the problem will not be solved until we make it possible for farmers to earn a living."

Noting the growth of foreign cotton producing areas, he predicted the South would "go bankrupt" if present trends continue.

The South, he said, must produce and sell 15,000,000 bales to support the cotton industry, and he predicted that in a few years, because of increased foreign production, there would be a market for only about 8,000,000 bales.

Bilbo said tenancy was not a racial problem in the South, citing that in Mississippi two-thirds of the tenants were white and a third negroes.

Approving the Bankhead bill as a substitute, the Senate failed to act on provisions in the House measure authorizing $50,000,000 over a three-year period for Federal purchase and retirement of sub-marginal lands and approving rehabilitation loans to tenants from any relief funds set aside by the President for the purpose.

Bankhead told reporters he had no objection to these provisions. They were left for consideration by the conferees and possible later action by the Senate.

The Alabama Senator predicted several months would be required to put any of the legislation in effect, and added the initial $10,000,000 appropriation would permit only a "demonstration" of the tenancy aid program at the outset.

Though the Senate debated tenancy for ten days in 1935 before approving the original Bankhead bill, little actual time was devoted to general aspects of the problem before today's action.

Arguing vainly for an amendment three $50,000,000 annual appropriations, Senator Connally (D), Texas, said yesterday more than 60 per cent of the farms in his State were operated by tenants.

Bankhead cited census figures to show there were 495,489 farms in Texas in 1930, of which 301,660 were operated by tenants. This gave a percentage of 60.9, of which 47.7 per cent were white and 13.2 negroes.

The Senate measure provides the projected farmers home corporation should give preference, in selling or leasing lands or making loans, to farmers with families or persons who recently were farmers.

It provides for a three per cent interest rate on loans, lower than charged by any existing Federal farm loan agency.

Bankhead told the Senate the measure calls for a five-year "probationary" period before titles to farm lands are turned over to purchasers.

SOME OBSERVATIONS OF RURAL CONDITIONS AMONG NEGROES

In Selma, Alabama there is a unit of the Alabama Farm Bureau with a membership of 520 Negro farmers of Dallas County. The members of this Farm Bureau get the benefit of discounts available to Farm Bureau members for seed, fertilizer, implements, etc. They have raised $1000 towards the construction of a building to be used as a recreational center for the thousands of Negro farmers who come to Selma each Saturday. S. W. Boynton is the Negro County Agent in Selma and the officers of the Colored Farm Bureau are Herbert Kahn, President, D. J. Rountree, Secretary and Brack Martin, Treasuruer.

In 1936, three farms in Leon County, Florida, were selected for experiments in growing sea-island cotton. J. H. Leonard was the colored farmer in this group. Mr. Leonard owns 200 acres of land and has leased 400 additional acres. In addition to his successful experiment with sea-island cotton, he also had 50 acres in melons for seed to fill a contract with a nationally known seed house.

The Negro farmers who founded the organization have received more in dividends than their original stock investment. The company has a reserve fund of $5000 and in 1936 paid a dividend of 8 percent.

F. E. Pinder, Negro County Agent, with headquarters at Gainesville, Florida, stated recently that Soil Conservation payments re-

ceived by Negro farmers in his county amounted to more than $21,000.

W. T. Gray, successful Negro truck farmer near Ocala, Florida, recently sold string beans for which he received $400 from one week's harvest. Mr. Gray is also a grower and shipper of tomatoes, squash cucumbers and live stock.

David Simmons, a graduate of Tuskegee's Agricultural Department in 1936, has opened a poultry farm near Milledgeville, Georgia. During his last year at Tuskegee, Mr Simmons was the National President of the New Farmers Association. Telling the story of his efforts, young Simmons said, "I borrowed money last February and bought 300 chicks. I earned enough on the sale of these chickens and eggs, to repay the loan and I still have enough chickens and eggs for the fall laying."

The Florida Farmers Cooperative Association has recently put on the market a super-refined cane syrup. J. T. Hamilton of Selfner, Florida, is President of this Negro Cooperative and C. L. Turner, Tallahassee, is Secretary.

The Citizens and Southern Bank of Savannah, with many branches throughout the state have agreed to finance 500 Negro 4-H Club boys with registered hiefers. P. H Stone, Negro State Extension Leader, stated that the handling of this feature of the 4-H Club would be under the direction of Alexander Hurse, Negro State Club Agent for the state of Georgia.

How Tenantry Can Serve

For many years U. S. Fuller and Lucius Fuller, father and son, have been farming near Culloden. They are demonstrating once more this year that under wise administration, tenant farming can be made profitable to landlord and tenant.

The Fullers own and operate 560 cultivated acres in Monroe county and 600 in Crawford county. They have 44 Negro tenant families on the Monroe county place and 20 in Crawford county. Many of the families have been Fuller tenants for 20 years. Some of them are operating the same farms their fathers operated as tenants. They are cheerful, frugal and generally speaking in far better circumstances than the average Middle Georgia farm Negro. The Fullers supply the land for cultivation and all the fertilizer necessary in farming operations. They supervise planting—nominally, but without gouging or imposition—and collect half the cotton and half the cotton seed produced. The tenants get everything else they produce—corn, hay, livestock, sorghum and vegetables.

The elder Mr. Fuller expresses his idea of successful tenant farming as one in which the tenant can profit with the landlord.

"There is no success in any plan whereby you try to get Negroes to farm so they cannot come out with a profit," he told visitors last week. "I would rather undertake to make less myself and give a fair share to the tenants. That is the only just plan and the only plan by which good tenants can be kept."

The Fullers serve their tenants as buying and marketing agents. They buy a single improved variety of cotton seed for the two farms and sell the crop in a lump at a premium price because of superior quality and uniformity. They supervise the farming operations along modern methods so that soil is conserved and improved, crops are healthy and successful, and harvests are as good as weather conditions permit.

The tenants serve their landlords as producers. It is a two-way combination in which each element is of equal importance.

Let those who will inveigh against paternalism of the tenant system. It is undeniably subject to unjust administration and ideally, perhaps, it is not perfect. But in actual practice evils of tenantry are in bad administration, and under practical conditions it is the one system that gives to honest Negro farm families a degree of independence and a fair profit that they cannot obtain as day laborers.

Farm laborers do not receive as much return in cash as do industrial laborers but that is something which at least in the near future will not be solved. When it is solved consumers will have to become reconciled to paying double or triple for farm products, and grocery prices will make this year's highs look like bargain day.

Meanwhile, somebody must farm or the world will starve. And some people like to farm even if they don't get as much money as they might by tightening bolts in an assembly line.

Landlords who farm with tenants may do well to take a lesson from the Fullers, whose crops are good, whose tenants are contented, whose intentions are just and whose profit will be sound.

HOUSTON, MISS., TIMES POST
JULY 8, 1937 J14

CHEMURGY THE HOPE OF THE FARMER

(West Point Times-Leader)

Arkansas farmers attending a chemurgic conference in Little Rock a few days ago were told that it will be only a matter of a few years until the American farmer will be independent of foreign markets.

One enthusiastic speaker predicted that the cotton growing South would be unable to supply the demand of the American industry, and that it would be necessary to import cotton from South and Central America to supplement our own production.

We doubt that this will happen in our generation.

Yet we know that new uses for cotton are being developed, and that consumption is keeping pace with production. We know that the seed from cotton is now worth almost as much as the lint was worth a few years ago, and that linters (salvaged from cotton seed) are now converted into rayon products worth millions of dollars annually. We know that cottonseed hulls, considered valueless a few years ago, are now used extensively in the production of cellulose, and that even the stalks can be converted into cellulose and paper.

More than this, we know that the sweet potato is furnishing material for a fine grade of starch, and thousands of acres are being planted for this purpose adjacent to the new starch factory in Laurel.

And we know that a humble negro chemist at Tuskegee, Alabama, has found nearly a hundred practical uses for the humble peanut, and that the value of that crop in the South has increased a thousand fold in ten years.

New Cotton Picker Takes Only White Bolls

WASHINGTON (ANP)—A mechanical cotton picker which makes use of the photo-electric cell of "electric eye" to pick only the white. ripe bolls and leave the others alone has been patented by Charles H. White, a white man of Moline, Ill., the federal patent office announces.

The "eye" pays no attention to green bolls, the inventor told the patent office. Iight cast by a green boll is absorbed and the machine does not respond. But when the boll is white, the light iis reflected and a signal is given to an electric hand to reach out.

Rust Brothers' Cotton Picker Has New Rival

MEMPHIS, Tenn., Sept. 6.—(AP) The Rust brothers, of Memphis, will have competition in the field of mechanical cotton picking this week when a new streamlined picker built by the International Harvester Company is placed in the fields on the Howell Hobson plantation near Clarksdale, Miss.

Hobson said he would begin picking cotton "sometime this week" with the machine, which resembles a miniature war tank.

He declined comment on a report that the company had sold him the machine outright. He referred queries to officials of the company, which has been conducting experiments for 20 years in an effort to perfect a mechanical picker.

While the International picker is in operation, John Rust, the elder of the inventor brothers, planned tests with an improved picker in the Mississippi delta, confident he and Mack had eliminated the objectionable features of their earlier machines.

The International picker, which has been developed in utmost secrecy, is a bright red in color with metal boots over the wheels.

Agriculture - 1937
Improvement of.

General

Cotton Picker Sure To Come, Says Expert

HarvesterCompanyHead Declares Future Is Up To South

CHICAGO, Oct. 8.—(AP)—Machinery to do the work of millions of cotton pickers in the Southland was forecast tonight by Sydney G. McAllister, president of the International Harvester Company.

His statement was the first authoritative commitment from the old line implement manufacturers respecting mechanization of cotton harvesting. The industry, he said in an address prepared for delivery over the radio, will eventually fulfill any demand upon it for a mechanical cotton picker.

Whether a mechanical picker is introdued into widespread use during the next generation, McAllister said, is dependent primarily upon the economic direction taken by the cotton production industry as a result of changing world factors.

A number of mechanical picker designs are now in the experimental stage, and some are near the point where they can be put in commercial manufacture. The Harvester Company, McAllister said, has a mechanical picker in experimental tests near Clarksdale, Miss.

While pointing out that he believed what the implement industry did about the cotton picker was "inseparably bound up with the future economic status of the South," McAllister said the industry was conscious of the social and economic implications of the mechanical picker, and that these phases were being studied along with others.

Plows and harvesting machines contributed to the nation's social and economic progress, the harvester president said, adding that mechanization of American agriculture had made it possible for the nation to achieve its "vaunted industrial system."

"Industry had progressed from the ox-cart to the streamlined automobile," he asserted, "only because agriculture had progressed from the man with the hoe to the man with the tractor."

He expressed the belief that introduction of the mechanical picker would come about gradually and naturally, and for this reason the economic changes flowing from it would produce a minimum of social disruption.

"Cotton growing today," he said, "is the least mechanized major division of agriculture. This very day, in the Southland, millions of human hands are picking cotton in the same laborious manner it was picked thousands of years ago in the valley of the Nile.

"It seems probable that if, in the next generation, the agricultural implement industry develops another implement comparable in significance to the reaper, it will be a mechanical cotton picker.

"Economists tell us that the American cotton growing industry, providing a livelihood for ten million people, must choose between two courses. It can continue to restrict production, thereby reducing acreage and cutting down the number of people employed, thus limiting its output to fit domestic demand. Or it can seek to regain the larger share of the foreign market which it held before 1930, when, for half a century, American cotton growers had produced 60 per cent of the world's cotton.

"Our industry cannot choose which of these courses the South will take. That is for others to decide, and we hope they decide it wisely."

James A. Jackson, Esso Marketeers Representative Touring New York State

James A. Jackson, special representative of the ESSO MARKETERS, distribution of the products of the Standard Oil Company of New Jersey, the Colonial Beacon Oil Co., Inc., and affiliated companies, left New York on Tuesday for a swing through the larger cities of New York State, which is in the Colonial Beacon territory.

He first went to Kingston for a two-day stay. He then goes to Albany for a day. October 8 and 9, will be spent in Syracuse where he will be a guest speaker for Salt City Lodge of Elks, No. 166. He spends the 9th and 10th in Rochester where Arthur Blake, of the School of Medicine and Sam R. Ball, High Masonic leader are making preparations for his coming. Four days will be spent in Buffalo under the joint guidance of the Colonial Beacon District Manager, and Editor Smitherman of the Buffalo Star, an old personal friend.

Returning to New York on October 16, Mr. Jackson leaves on Monday night to be one speakers at the 28th Annual Tidewater Fair in Suffolk, Va., on a program with Judge Edward Henry of Philadelphia who is listed as principal speaker.

From there the Esso man journeys to Forsyth, Ga., stopping enroute at Henderson, N. C., for a day at the county fair, to be in attendance at the Tenth Annual convention of the National Federation of Colored Farmers. This body is composed of Negro farm owners from 22 states. James P. Davis was the founder, and Leon Harris of Moline, Ill., is executive secretary and acting president.

Mr. Jackson will be back in the Standard Oil Bldg., in New York on November 2nd. His last official work before leaving town was to deliver orders for 100 gallons of Esso gas and a like amount of Essoline to The Age automobile contest winners.

Agriculture — 1937
Improvement of.

General.

Urge Negro Be Put In Dept. Of Agriculture

2-13-'37

Only Way Race Farmer Can Get Benefits of Bill, Is Claim

Journal and Guide Bureau

WASHINGTON, D. C.—While the House committee on agriculture is conducting hearings on the $500,000,000 Bankhead-Jones farm tenancy bill, it becomes more apparent that if the Negro farmer is to get the full benefit of legislation enacted to assist farmers, the first step toward that end should be the securing of an appointment of a colored man to an administrative position in the Department of Agriculture.

Census figures show that of the total farm population of 31,800,907 on January 1, 1935, 4,742,056 were colored persons.

A step forward in this direction would be the appointment of a Negro as Assistant Secretary of Agriculture, a position now held by a Georgian. Such an appointment would have a salutary political effect among colored voters and give assurance to colored farmers that their interests would be looked after.

An example of their disadvantages may be seen in their inability to avail themselves of the benefits of legislation already enacted to assist the farmer. A large percentage of them cannot qualify for loans under the Farm Credit Act, which requires stock, a financial statement, and unpledged property sufficient to justify the loan. The only collateral most of them have is their prospective crops.

If they are informed, they will be able to take advantage of the law authorizing crops production loans approved by the President January 29. The President has asked for an appropriation of $50,000,000 to carry into effect the provisions of this act.

Since 1922 this form of credit has been extended to farmers who are unable to secure credit themselves elsewhre. As a rsult of these loans, not exceeding $400, millions of farmers and farm laborers have been given employment on their own farms, earning a living for themselves and their dependents.

The Bandhead-Jones farm tenancy bill, in a sense, embodies some of the proposals for remedial legislation to assist Negro tenant farms made by the committee on increased opportunity for employment and economic security of the National Conference on Negro Problems recently held in Washington.

The measure would establish a Farmers' Home Corporation to assist in the purchase of farms and farm homes and improving the situation of farm tenants. It would be empowered to acquire and sell property, make loans, and provide additional credit facilities for agricultural developments.

U.S. Millions Proposed To Aid Farmers

Abstract

Federal Fund Sought By President In Fight Against Tenancy Evil

Lease Farm Lands

2-17-37

Proposes Long Range Plan For Financing Farms At Low Interest Rates

WASHINGTON, Feb. 16.—(AP)—President Roosevelt asked Congress today to save the "American dream" of individual farm ownership.

Reporting that it is increasingly difficult for energetic young men to ascend the traditional ladder from hired man to tenant to independent owner, he proposed to bring Federal millions to their assistance.

"Obviously action by the States alone and independently cannot cure the widespread evil," the President said in transmitting the report of his special committee on farm tenancy.

"A nationwide program under Federal leadership and with the assistance of States, counties, communities and individuals is the only solution. Most Americans believe that our form of Government does not prohibit action on behalf of those who need help."

His committee proposed:

1. Government purchase of good farm land for sale on liberal credit terms to selected tenants. Purchasers would have to pass through a trial leasing period not to exceed five years, would have 40 years to complete payment, and could acquire title in 20 years if their finances permitted.

2. Federal and State purchase and retirement of about 100,000,000 acres of poor crop land, and assistance to families moving from it to better farms. This would be carried forward at the rate of 2,000,000 to 5,000,000 acres a year.

3. "Modest loans" to prevent small farm owners from slipping into tenancy and to help tenants, croppers and farm laborers to increase their standards of living. The committee said about 1,300,000 tenant and cropper families and members of other groups of "disadvantaged farm workers" needed such Federal assistance.

Discourage Land Booms

4. A Federal "windfall" tax to take a large percentage of profits from sales of land made within three years after its purchase. This was proposed as a means to discourage land booms and to encourage families to stay on and develop one farm.

5. State legislation to improve the general leasing system and provide compensation to tenants for property improvements they make.

6. Construction and operation of "decent places to live" for itinerant farm laborers.

7. Creation of a farm security administration, under the Secretary of Agriculture, to direct the Federal program. A farm security corporation would handle legal transactions concerning purchase and sale of land, stock and equipment, and the making of loans.

The report went to a Congress already considering various proposals to help tenants to farm ownership.

Chairman Jones (D), Texas, of the House agriculture committee commented that the President's message was a good one. He expressed belief, however, that recommendations of the special committee should be broadened.

Study Bankhead Bill

Jones pointed out his own committee had been conducting hearings for several weeks on a $500,000,000 tenant aid bill offered by himself and Senator Bankhead (D), Alabama.

The House committee expected to hear Secretary Wallace or a member of the President's special committee Thursday. Afterward, Jones said, a tenancy bill using the Bankhead-Jones measure as a basis would be worked out.

In his special message submitting the tenant aid proposals, President Roosevelt said they would represent a logical broadening of the administration's present farm program.

Urging prompt action, he said:

"For the past 10 years, the number of new tenants every year has been about 40,000. x x x The agricultural ladder, for these Americans, has become a treadmill.

"At the same time, owners of family size farms have been slipping down. Thousands of farmers commonly considered owners are as insecure as tenants. The farm owner-operator's equity is, on the average, 42 per cent, and in some of our best farming sections is as little as one-fifth.

"When fully half the total farm population of the United States no longer can feel secure, when millions of our people have lost their foots in the soil, action to provide security is imperative, and will be generally approved."

Slocomb, Ala. Observer
March 5, 1937

Machinical Cotton Pickers

The demonstration of the Rust cotton picker several months ago recieved nation-wide attention. Since then there have been tests of several other mechanical pickers, including one on which it is said a million dollars has been spent. The results of these experiments is of utmost importance to everyone in the South, from the wealthiest business man to the humblest Negro field hand.

It is reported that the U. S. Department of Agricultnre in cooperation with spinners is now conducting extensive tests to determing the grade and spinning qualities of machine - gathered cotton.

Carl B. Fritsche Is Speaker At The Institute Wed

News

Tuskegee Institute, Ala., Mar. 17.—Carl B. Fritsche, managing director, Farm Chemurgic Council, of Dearborn, Mich., addressed the faculty and students in the Institute Chapel Wednesday night on the aims and purposes of the Chemurgic Council and its relation to the Southern farmer. In his opening remarks, Fritsche referred to his meeting with Booker T. Washington who addressed a Sunday School in the Elder Fritsche at Nashville, Tenn. He paid a fine tribute to Dr. Washington, whose work he has followed with keen interest since the day he first saw and heard him speak in his father's church. In referring to Dr. George W. Carver, Fritsche said: "Dr. Carver is a worthy successor to Booker T. Washington. I have long known and held in high regard his work in research and creative chemistry. Much of the new movement thruout the country to use by-products of farm crops is due to Dr. Carver. He was invited to the Dearborn conference two years ago and we were very sorry he was unable to attend We are happy that he has accepted the invitation to attend the meeting of the council in Jackson, Miss., in April. His counsel will be of great value to our proceedings. Governor White expressed to me a few days ago his great pleasure in Dr. Carver's acceptance.

"The genesis of Chemurgic," Fritsche said, "is in Henry Ford's saying 'man's subsistence issues from the soil, not from the merchants shelves.' The work of the council is being carried forward in laboratories, public and private. Its basic policy is the policy of use." He said further in part: Farm Chemurgurcy means putting chemistry and science as a whole to work for the farmer and indirectly for society in general. In proportion as the economic status of the Southern landowner and tenant and sharecropper can be improved, the entire Southland will benefit accordngly.

Basically the program of the Farm Chemurgic Council is dependent upon effective coordination of agriculture, industry, science and finance. Agriculture firnishes the raw materials, industry processes them, science tells how to do it finance furnishes the capital.

Objectives Of The Council

This is a self-help program with three objectives:

1. To advance the industrial use of American farm products through applied science and at a price profitably to the producer.

2. To encourage the production in this country of new crop products now imported from abroad.

3. To preserve the production in this country of new crops.

4. To preserve the American market for the American farmer.

The program is founded on the philosophy that so long as pover-

ty thrives in rural America the nation as a whole cannot enjoy enduring prosperity. The Southland is the most promising section of the country for the advancement of this program. Since almost every important crop is indigenous to this region the volume of variety or organic raw materials available for use in industry excite both imagination and ambition. Consider also the wealth of minerals and timber, it can be truly said that the Southland is richly endowed with natural resources. However these natural resources must not be exploited that few may be enriched, but rather must have sound development to secure the benefit to everyone, including succeeding generations.

More Work The Remedy

It is submitted that the best cure for the evils of tenancy is the broadening as well as increasing the variety of markets for farm products, at prices profitable to the producer. The only answer is to provide tenants with more work and that is one specific objective of the Farm Chemurgic Council.

Four Chemurgic Industries Ready

These new industries are as follows:

Four hundred argol plants utilizducing a blending constituent adaping starch and sugar crops for protable to motor fuel. The council's laborator at Atchison, Kansas (financed by the Chemical Foundation) is pointing the way.

Two hundred starch plants utilizing the Southern white triumph sweet potato. The development at Laurel, Miss., is pointing the way.

One hundred craft and newsprint paper mills. The research of DDr. Charles H. Hearty at the Savannah Pulp and Paper Laboratory is pointing the way through the use of Southern slash and loblolly pine.

One million acres of tung trees needed. The flourish growth of 85,000 of tung trees now planted in Gulf Coast states from Texas to Florida is pointing the way.

This program will restore the purchasing power of the farmer and increase his consumption of manufactured products In so doing it will create new work for idle hands to do, thus reviving American industry and aiding the American labor."

Fritsche urged the cooperation of young men and women trained in land grant colleges and state universities. Those specializing in the various branches of science and engineering who possess the ambition to become cocreators of new industries rather than to qualify for mere administrative jobs in old enterprises. This new demand for trained leadership will no longer make it necesary for the splendid youth of the South to seek positions in Northern industries. Present facilities in Southern Universities and colleges are adequate to provide only about one-third the young leadership necessary for these projects.

"I have," said Fritsche, in conclusion, "great respect for men like Dr. Carver who have entered the unknown realms of nature. I worship their humility which Dr. Carver exemplifies so well. The chemical revolution will bring health culture and character and a better opportunity for all mankind Dr. Fritsche spent several hours in the laboratory with Dr. Carver and his assistant, Apustin W. Curtis, Jr., and in conference with President Patterson.

SPEAKING OF "NOW", WHAT ABOUT THIS?

If there was one piece of legislation which seemed assured of passage at this session of Congress, it was the Bankhead-Jones tenant farm bill.

Since the passage of the bill in the Senate two years ago, it has been before the public.

The Democratic platform endorsed it in principle.

The President endorsed it in his campaign speeches.

Governor Landon endorsed it in his speeches.

The Institute of Public Opinion reported that the American people were more solidly behind a program of farm tenancy relief than any other program on which a poll had been taken.

The President appointed a committee which held hearings in various sections of the country and carried recommendations to Washington.

Every preliminary step had been taken and apparently there was no concerted opposition. And yet, the agricultural committee of the house has voted down the bill that had been generally agreed upon by most of those who have had a part in agreeing upon a plan!

What can be the trouble?

In The Advertiser's opinion the delay can be attributed to the fact that the people directly affected, that is, tenants and sharecroppers, have no audible political voice.

There is no difficulty in passing labor legislation, in passing legislation to relieve the coal industry, in passing a program of crop insurance for the wheat farmers. Those concerned have a political voice. Incidentally, the wheat insurance program calls for an outlay of $100,000,000—double the annual outlay asked for tenant farm relief.

The agricultural committee is "considering" two other proposals for tenant relief, according to the dispatches. But the two other proposals, judging from the description of them in reports from Washington, are farces.

What is wrong with the House agricultural committee? Is it controlled by hidebound fossils, or up-State New York dairy farmers?

Objection was raised to the supervision features of the proposed act. Every intelligent student of the farm tenancy program is agreed upon three fundamental principles, namely:

1. There must be lenient credit.
2. The tenants must be selected.
3. There must be reasonable supervision and advice.

The Advertiser does not know of a single authority who has recommended a program that did not include these three points.

The President says we must go slow, that it would be unwise to tackle the problem on anything except a sampling basis. How slow does he want to go? Why must everything else, including the rejuvenation of the nine old men, be "NOW" while 43 per cent of the American farmers stagnate under conditions that are incompatible with this nation's standard of living?

It is time for the South to wake up and demand the one program that would mean more to it than anything yet attempted by the New Deal.

It is time for the President to wake up.

It is time for the agricultural committee of the House to wake up. Senator Bankhead will see that the bill is pushed through the Senate.

The country is recovering, private enterprise is once again signalling full speed ahead.

But there is no hope for the tenant farmer in private initiative. He is still waiting for the stimulus of the RFC, the NRA, the HOLC, the WPA, the PWA, the AAA—all of which had their effect but none of which proved his salvation.

Of the billions that have been spent the tenant farmer has had only an occasional hand-out. He should not be made the victim of economy and delay. He was in a bad fix before 1929. He was in despair in 1933. There is no promise that he will ever be much better unless the Federal government steps in.

It would be a sorry trick if his lot does not get attention NOW!

Editorial of the Day

COTTON FOR CELLULOSE

(From the Spartanburg Herald.)

Is the day of picking, ginning and baling the cotton crop coming to an end? One will believe so after reading the announcement to the American Chemical Society made by Dr. Frank K. Cameron, of the University of North Carolina.

Dr. Cameron has conducted a series of experiments, covering several years, in the production of cotton, to prove that the south has been throwing values away while retaining only the lint and seed of the cotton plant. He has proved to his own satisfaction that the whole cotton plant—stalk, boll, lint and seed—can be harvested and made into cellulose after the oil has been chemically extracted from the seed. The cotton pickers would give way to mechanical reapers, and instead of expensive ginning and baling the crop would be prepared for market by a machine similar to that which bales hay.

If the vision of the North Carolina professor becomes a reality, the effect will be revolutionary. There will be no use for the mechanical cotton pickers which inventors are said to have perfected. The cotton gin industry which has grown to large proportions will be without a market for its gins. The vexatious problem of jute bagging will be completely solved and the ginneries scattered throughout the cotton fields of the south will be useless. Cotton pickers will operate the harvesters and balers under the new system. There will be a change in the method of planting and cultivation of the cotton crop which will do away with the "chopping" of cotton. Paper mills will be attracted to the south, where they will be guaranteed abundance of raw material which can be grown in one season.

It may be a dream but chemists agree with Dr. Cameron that his announcement is sound. If it proves practicable the south is in for a new era and one of new adjustment which should bring prosperity to southern farms, towns and cities.

Georgia

Agriculture – 1937
Improvement of.

Plantation Near Augusta Consists Of Over 2,000 Acres; 1,500 Tilled

Daily World 10-16-37
Atlanta, Ga.

Thompsons Among Leading Live Stock Dealers Of State; Various Crops Produced On Large Scale

OVER 50 PERSONS EMPLOYED

By P. H. STONE
State Agent for Negro Work, Georgia Dep't of Agriculture.

AUGUSTA, Ga.—(SNS)—Four miles down the Savannah river from Augusta is situated one of the most unique businesses to be **found in the state being owned and operated by a colored man. It** is a mammoth farming enterprise—a live stock farm with all of the accessories that go to make an enterprise of this sort successful. Harold Thompson, a pleasing and affable young bachelor, scion of one of Augusta's aristocratic old families, is the dynamo behind this business.

When the writer visited this farm recently, Thompson, unshaven, bareheaded, clad in overalls that showed unmistakable signs of hard usage, but with a broad smile and a hearty welcome, was assisting a crowd of hands in unloading a truck-load of green corn. This was at the old "Paradise Place" one of the centers of activity on this farm. This corn was being thrown down in disorganized piles while some two hundred and fifty hogs and shoats of all sizes tore at the ears and chased each other about the feeding lot in true hog fashion.

"What are you going to do with these hogs?" Mr. Thompson was asked. "These," he said, "are my barbecue hogs. I pick these up here and there for a song, drop them down here where they can roam the place. There are plenty of mass and bullisses in the swamps and I throw the corn to them here so they will know where to come when they want to change their rations. I sell them to barbecue stands, and to any body or any organization that wants to give a 'cue. We dress them right here and can furnish any number and any size they want. This is just trash, my real hogs are over on the other side."

Raising hogs, however, is just a sideline on this farm. The main enterprise is beef cattle. Leaving the "Paradise Place," we drove back towards Augusta, turned right, parked on the levee and walked down to see one of his herds of feeder cattle. Here, standing in grass up to their stomachs were around 350 feeder steers, many of which were in prime shape for the market.

There was another similar herd in a pasture farther down the river. Leaving this point and driving slowly down the top of the levee, one could see spreading out fan-like on either side broad acres of corn and cow-peas, wide expanses of choice hay bottoms, the like of which can hardly be seen any where else in the state. Back from the levee, dotting the fields like sentinels were ricks and stacks of hay of the first and second cuttings that reminded one of the prairies. Every where could be heard the cluck of wagons hauling in more freshly cured hay and the machine gun-like tattoo of moving machines gave the place an atmosphere of big time industry.

Thompson is a modest fellow and doesn't like to discuss himself, but from detailed questioning and observations these facts were brought out:

The plantation covered about 2,000 acres. There were fifteen hundred acres of land under cultivation on this farm. Fifty hands were employed regularly. Twenty-two excellent mules and three tractors—A 10-20 and two F 30's furnished the power for this farm. A J. I. Case threshing machine was maintained on this farm just to handle the oat crop. Two grain binders,, one horse-drawn and one power binder, products sold from the farm consisted yearly of approximately six hundred head of beef cattle, about two hundred head of hogs, three thousand bushels of corn from ten to twelve car loads of hay and thirty bales of Stoneville No. 2 cotton.

Hal Thompson gets his mail at 442 Calhoun Street, Augusta, but he lives out on his farm. There were no signs of labor trouble out there either. One of the hands remarked, "Mr. Hal sho kin work. He never says go. He says come on and if you follow him all day you sho gon sleep that night."

Guiding Spirit

AUGUSTA, Ga —(SNS)—Mrs. J. F. Thompson, shown above, is the mother of three sons and one daughter, all prominent in their respective fields. Two of her sons, Harold and C. A. live here. The former is general manager of the Thompson's 2,000 acre plantation, located near Augusta, and C. A. operates a large transfer company.

Another son, Dr. E. F. Thompson, resides in Philadelphia. The daughter, Mrs B. E. Oliver, is the wife of the manager of the Greenwich Community Center in New York.

Thompson Family Among South's Aristocrats

Owners Of One Of State's Largest Plantations

By ROBERT RATCLIFFE

AUGUSTA, Ga.—(S N S)—There is real history attached to the Thompson family of Richmond county—history that is inspiration to those interested in possibilities of the farm.

Years ago, J. F. Thompson purchased a small farm. As he brought forth fruit from this land, he dreamed of owning and cultivating even more soil.

Later, he purchased additional adjoining land. At his death, he left to his wife, three sons and daughter a total of 2,000 acres, 1,500 of which could easily be cultivated.

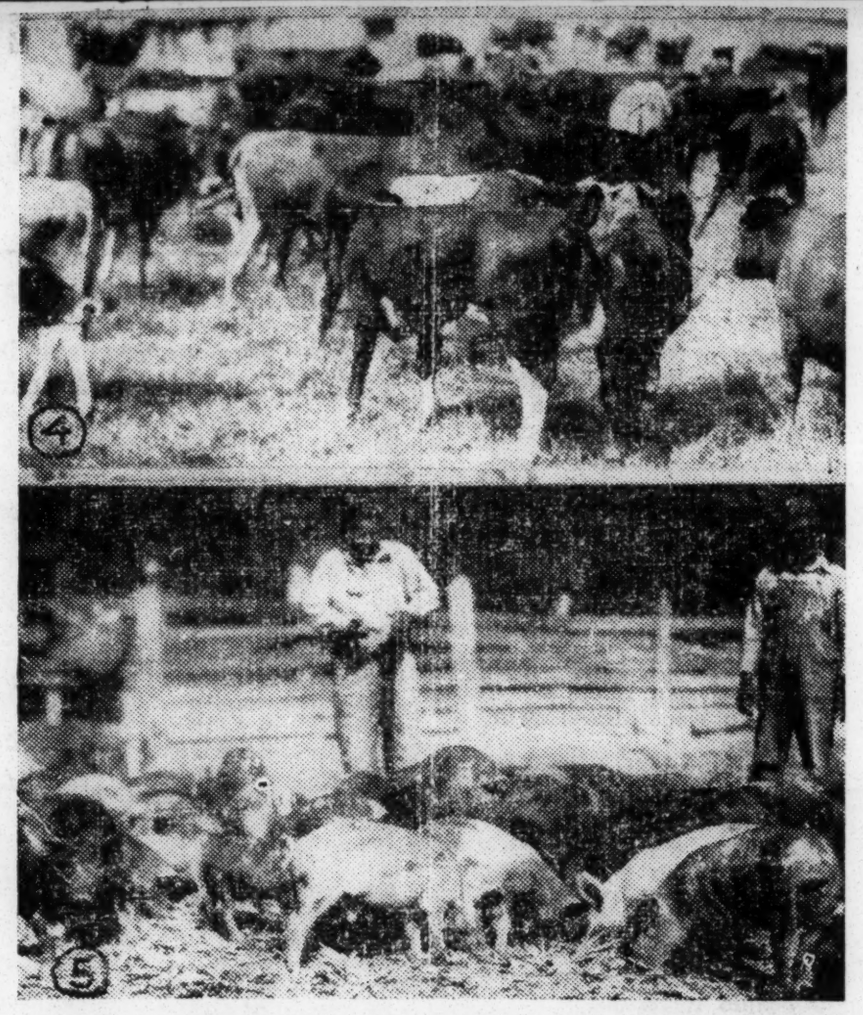
Success of this wealthy plantation is due largely to Mr. Thompson's wife. Her loyalty and wisdom were important factors in the continuation of the farm after the death of her husband. She exhibited leadership that is praiseworthy.

Although aged and somewhat feeble, she is still head of the family. Mrs. Thompson spends most of her time at their city home, 422 Calhoun Street, Augusta. Living with her is one of her three sons, C. A., who is the successful operator of a large transfer company. He spends the major portion of his time moving cotton.

Harold Thompson, a Paine College product, who is general manager of the plantation, divides his time between the farm and home. Riding atop the levee, pointing out interesting spots scattered over the 2,000 acres is real enjoyment to him.

In Philadelphia, is another brother, Dr. E. F. Thompson. A sister, Mrs. B. E. Cliver, resides in New York City. She is the wife of the manager of the Greenwich Community Center in New York.

SCENES AT THOMPSON PLANTATION



AUGUSTA, Ga.—(SNS)—Scenes taken on the 2,000 acre Thompson plantation, located about four miles from Augusta. Scene No. 1, shows C. A. Thompson, left, operator of a big transfer company, and his brother, Harold, who is general manager of the farm.

Scene No. 2: Harold Thompson is seated on his $1,500 Farmall tractor, one of the three big motors used by him on the plantation.

Scene No. 3: Business men pose with farmers. C. A. Scott at left is general manager of the Scott Newspaper Syndicate and Atlanta Daily World in Atlanta; Arthur Bradley, successful Aiken, S. C. farmer; G. H. Howard, district manager of the Atlanta branch of the Afro-American insurance company, and Harold Thompson.

Scene No. 4: Just a small section of the beef cattle grazing on the plantation. The Thompsons own around 300 head of cattle.

Scene No. 5: A portion of the approximate 400 head of hogs that roam the Thompson plantation. Mr. Thompson, center, is throwing some corn to the swine.—SNS staff photos by Ratcliffe.

Agriculture—1937

Georgia.

Improvement of

Tung Oil in Georgia

Georgia and five other Southern states are now growing tung oil trees on a commercial schedule. Florida, Alabama, Missssippi, Louisiana, and Texas, all contain soil and climate in which the trees flourish. People are coming from many countries to study the methods by which the trees are grown and the nuts are processed. For hundreds of years China was the one source of supply of tung oil for all the world. The United States alone uses about $2,000,000 worth annually, or 140,000,000 pounds. All other countries use it to a greater or less extent. The tung tree grows wild in China, but it must be cultivated in this country. Efforts to grow the trees above the Piedmont line have not been very encouraging, but in the Coastal Plains such efforts have been successful. Americans are great on carrying all their eggs to market in one basket, and already rosy pictures of fortunes from growing tung trees are being painted. In Brazil, where coffee grows like weeds in America, the government has to haul it out in ships and dump it into the sea to prevent the producers or harvesters from starving to death by reason of low prices. In China, where tung trees grow wild and nuts are produced in abundance, nobody hears of immense fortunes to the Chinese tung nut gatherers.

In this country we are already hearing of men who own the largest tung groves in the world, just as some of the peach growers and cotton growers a few years ago, claimed to have the largest peach orchards and cotton plantations in the world. The argument for extensive tung tree growing is that no substitute can be used for the tung oil. However, scientists tell us that what man wishes for, science can produce, and if a substitute is desired for tung oil, history proves that the substitute will be produced.

At present, however, the temptation is great enough to make the tung tree growers paint a rosy picture for their business. It is great enough to make them lose their heads as the peach growers did, and as the cotton growers do. Last year 250,000 gallons of the oil were used for enamel coatings of tubes for shaving cream, tooth paste, and cosmetics. Varnish manufacturers in the United States alone used 15,000,000 gallons. The General Electric Company consumed 10,000,000 gallons to insulate the wires of dynamos and motors. One of the 24 linoleum companies used 180 tanks to top-dress their products; oilcloth, raincoats, paper products, silks and wools, also may be top-dressed and waterproofed with tung oil. Automobile brakebands are built up with tung oil, so that gasoline, oils, etc., will roll off without doing injury. Printer's ink and all indelible inks are among the many hundreds of products dependent upon the oil.

The University of Florida has been actively working for 20 years on this problem of producing tung oil. The experiments have been conducted at experiment stations around Gainesville, Florida.

It will be seen, therefore, why landowners may be tempted to throw aside everything else and go in for tung oil, forgetting the danger in depending upon one cash crop—no matter what crop.

Edgefield, S. C. Advertiser
September 15, 1937

Cigarette Paper From Ramie Tested

Savannah, Ga. — National tobacco manufacturers are watching with keen interest an experiment at the Georgia State Negro college at Thunderbolt involving the manufacture of cigarette paper from fibers of a plant known as ramie.

A test of the fibers is now being conducted in New York laboratories. One of the oldest plants known, ramie was the base for cloth in which Egyptian mummies were wrapped.

Agriculture - 1937
Improvement of

Georgia

Macon, Ga., Telegraph
July 22, 1937

How Tenantry Can Serve

For many years U. S. Fuller and Lucius Fuller, father and son, have been farming near Culloden. They are demonstrating once more this year that under wise administration, tenant farming can be made profitable to landlord and tenant.

The Fullers own and operate 560 cultivated acres in Monroe county and 650 in Crawford county. They have 14 Negro tenant families on the Monroe county place and 20 in Crawford county. Many of the families have been Fuller tenants for 20 years. Some of them are operating the same farms their fathers operated as tenants. They are cheerful, frugal and generally speaking in far better circumstances than the average Middle Georgia farm Negro. The Fullers supply the land for cultivation and all the fertilizer necessary in farming operations. They supervise planting—nominally, but without gouging or imposition—and collect half the cotton and half the cotton seed produced. The tenants get everything else they produce—corn, hay, livestock, sorghum and vegetables.

The elder Mr. Fuller expresses his idea of successful tenant farming as one in which the tenant can profit with the landlord.

"There is no success in any plan whereby you try to get Negroes to farm so they cannot come out with a profit," he told visitors last week. "I would rather undertake to make less myself and give a fair share to the tenants. That is the only just plan and the only plan by which good tenants can be kept."

The Fullers serve their tenants as buying and marketing agents. They buy a single improved variety of cotton seed for the two farms and sell the crop in a lump at a premium price because of superior quality and uniformity. They supervise the farming operations along modern methods so that soil is conserved and improved, crops are healthy and successful, and harvests are as good as weather conditions permit.

The tenants serve their landlords as producers. It is a two-way combination in which each element is of equal importance.

Let those who will inveigh against paternalism of the tenant system. It is undeniably subject to unjust administration and ideally, perhaps, it is not perfect. But in actual practice evils of tenantry are in bad administration, and under practical conditions it is the one system that gives to honest Negro farm families a degree of independence and a fair profit that they cannot obtain as day laborers.

Farm laborers do not receive as much return in cash as do industrial laborers but that is something which at least in the near future will not be solved. When it is solved, consumers will have to become reconciled to paying double or triple for farm products, and grocery prices will make this year's highs look like bargain day.

Meanwhile, somebody must farm or the world will starve. And some people like to farm even if they don't get as much money as they might by tightening bolts in an assembly line.

Landlords who farm with tenants may do well to take a lesson from the Fullers, whose crops are good, whose tenants are contented, whose intentions are just, and whose profit will be sound.

Master Farmer Explains Tenant Problem Solution

Martin M. Norman of Hartwell Says 'Human Equations' Is Greatest Factor

HARTWELL, Ga., Aug. 21 (AP)—Tall, gray-haired Martin M. Norman, one of Georgia's four "master farmers of 1937," declares the "human education" is the greatest factor in the problem of farm tenancy.

Norman was cited last week by the state college of agriculture and a farm magazine (Progressive Farmer) for the effectiveness of his farm management. He was lauded specifically for having "no tenant problem' although there are 22 sharecroppers and six renting tenants on his land.

Soil building and tenant aid methods used by Master Farmer Norman include: crop diversification, rotation and proper use of winter cover crops, tenant conferences and plantation tours to encourage competition.

"I am a good landlord to them and they are good tenants to me," Norman explained. "We have worked out a mutual understanding about soil improvement and human character building. The croppers know that when they make money for me they also make money for themselves."

Human Dividends, Too

Hart County Agent L. C. Westbrooks declared Norman is "paying and receiving both cash and human dividends with his system of tenancy."

The 60-year-old farmer, known to his tenants as "Mr. Martin," is Georgia's only bachelor master farmer. He has lived for more than 40 years on his land near here. The 2,000 acres are divided among 28 tenants (six of them rent for cash and a portion of the crops and the others work "on halves"—that is, as sharecroppers). All but six of the tenants are Negroes.

Westbrook said the Norman plantation has eliminated the common bugaboos of tenancy: frequent moving, poor housing, soil destruction, ignorance, ill health). The average tenant has stayed 10 years; two of them have been here 30 years.

The average sharecropper plot in the Norman plantation is 28 acres. His program calls for two acres of this to be planted in clover (in winter) and peas (in summer). This is called the seed patch, and supplies cover crop seeds for all available acreage.

The other 26 acres are programmed like this: Cotton 12; corn 5; oats 5; wheat 2; sorghum 1 (half goes to mules feed, the other half for syrup) and garden 1.

"All the croppers agree to this program before they can work on my land," Norman said. "They do not complain of it and most of them have discovered for themselves how it improves their earnings."

Keen Competition Seen

Every few weeks all the tenants climb aboard trucks for a plantation tour. They visit each plot and discuss the relative merits of the fields and houses.

"Keen competition has developed," Norman said, "and there is not one of them that doesn't work harder to have his fellow sharecroppers point to his crop as the best."

Norman furnishes all material for tenants to improve their homes. He insists that children attend school. State farm officials say Norman's system of tenancy has proven practical under his supervision, but they do not know how well the system would work under another landlord.

CELEBRATING ELECTRIFICATION

From the Wiregrass Farmer.

Irwin county is celebrating the opening of the Irwin County Rural Electrification Project. A county with such extensive rural electric service is bound to prove popular to those hunting a desirable place to live.

Augusta Farmer Wins First Prize In Cattle Exhibit

AUGUSTA, Ga.—(SNS)—This Hereford bull from the 2,000 acre farm of Harold Thompson, progressive farmer and cattle raiser, won first prize at a cattle exhibit staged here recently. Mr. Thompson's plantation is located about four miles down the Savannah river from Augusta.

One of the white judges is shown holding the bull.

Agriculture – 1937
Improvement of.

Georgia

HENRY FORD TO UNITE FARMING, INDUSTRY

Constitution

Workers in Proposed South Georgia Plant Will Till Own Fields.

2-24-37

WAYS, Ga., Feb. 23.—(AP)—Henry Ford, working out a long-range program for development of this rural Georgia community, announced today he will establish an "industry" as part of the plan.

The Detroit automobile manufacturer said draftsmen already are at work on plans for a plant which will be closely affiliated in operation with his newly completed manual arts school here.

Workers in the plant, which Ford said will manufacture automobile parts, will have farms near by.

Ford predicted several years ago that industries of the future will consist of small units surrounded by farms able to sustain them.

The 70,000-acre Ford-owned tract in Bryan county, 18 miles south of Savannah, Georgia's chief seaport, will be the site of the plant.

Ford described the location as "ideal."

"Look at the growth of timber," he said.

"It's a great source of fertilizer, power and revenue. We're near the railroads, too."

The manufacturer would not estimate the cost of the project, and said he did not know the date construction will begin.

"We will aim, as we do in our other plants, to have the proper proportion of people of all ages," Ford said.

"We won't have to import anybody either. Folks right here will have plenty of skill. Everybody will have a part in farming, whether he owns a farm jointly or in his own name."

Ford estimated about 700 persons would take part in the project.

A large community house already has been erected on the huge tract for use of the manual arts school children and their parents.

In addition, hundreds of persons are at work improving roads, landscaping and erecting many other buildings on the property.

Mr. and Mrs. Ford's winter home is located on near-by Richmond plantation.

Macon, Ga., News
March 3, 1937

Negro Ham Show To Be Tomorrow

Farmers of Three Counties to Take Part in Event

The annual show of hams cured by Houston, Macon and Peach county Negro farmers, will be held tomorrow morning in Fort Valley, it was announced today at the local extension service bureau.

For the last 15 years or more the event has been sponsored by the Negro agricultural agent of those counties. L. E. Farmer, Athens, extension economist in marketing and Jones Purcell, Tifton, swine specialist, will judge the meat and display it for sale. The hams will be sold at the average current rate, it was said.

GEORGIA'S FARM YOUTH

Speaking on a program arranged by the Georgia College of Agriculture at Athens, Walter S. Brown, acting director of the agricultural service, outlined the development of the 4-H Club movement in training youths to modern methods of farming and homemaking, and said that hundreds of youths who started farming careers with but a single pig or calf ten years ago today are leading livestock producers in their communities.

Constitution
3-7-37

He estimated that there are more than 300,000 farmers and farm women in Georgia who had been members of 4-H clubs during their "teen" years, passing on to farm and home management on arriving at maturity. He added his conviction that a large part of the progress being made today in Georgia in growing more livestock, conservation of soil, doing better farming and increasing the state's food and feed supply is being done by and under the leadership of 4-H Club members and the "graduates" from that excellent school of training.

Speaking on the same program R. E. Davis, livestock specialist, who is directing 4-H clubs in feeding beef calves for stock shows, reported that 1,200 boys and girls are taking part in this phase of the work this year, or three times the number of entries in shows last spring.

The fat stock show, a novelty in Georgia when the first was held in Savannah six years ago, has grown to be an important annual event in several sections of the state. Four such shows, for the exhibition and sale of purebred and high-grade cattle, will be held this year. The first will be in Savannah March 25-26. Others will be held at Albany, April 6-7; Macon, April 12-13, and Atlanta, April 20-21. In addition to these, shows and sales will be held in Augusta, Moultrie, Tifton, Sylvania, Blakely, Blue Ridge, Carrollton and other cities.

Helpful hints on the fitting and showing of beef cattle are contained in a pamphlet recently prepared jointly by Mr. Davis and W. S. Rice, professor of animal husbandry at the State College of Agriculture, which is available on request, and will prove of inestimable value to both the young and mature cattle owners who will exhibit their stock at these shows.

The enthusiasm and interest demonstrated by progressive agriculturists in development of the livestock industry, and the helpful cooperation of banks and businessmen of the state, indicate that there will be no cessation in advance of this fundamental branch of agriculture. Georgia is geographically and climatically situated to become one of the leading livestock states of the nation, having every natural advantage for low-cost production of hogs, sheep, beef and dairy cattle. Utilizing these advantages to their fullest extent will serve to make our farmers more prosperous and greatly increase the prosperity of the entire state.

Henry Ford Announces Plan For Georgia Art Museum

Constitution
3-17-37

Growing Cars On Cornstalks

WAYS, GA., March 16—(AP)—Henry Ford, whose interest in historic objects led to establishment of a museum in Dearborn, Mich., will collect objects showing evolution of the arts in the South on his southern estate.

Morning Telegram
Ga.

The automobile manufacturer announced the new project today at his Winter home on a 70,000 acre estate 18 miles from Savannah, Ga. He said the articles, including machinery, early inventions and many other things, would be assembled "for educational purposes" in connection with his development for the school children of this community.

The Edison Museum and Greenfield village in Dearborn, where Ford restored historic buildings and collected interesting exhibits attracts thousands of visitors annually.

Ford also announced plans for a roadside market here where school children will offer for sale products grown in their gardens or made in school. A manual arts building which Ford constructed is now in use and saleable objects, such as furniture, will be produced.

"The profits will be divided among the children," Ford said. "This will teach them how to earn and spend money."

Land is being cleared for gardens and a chemistry laboratory has been set up for research with Georgia farm products, under Ford's auspices.

"We're working on a way now to decompose sawdust, leaves and other materials for use as fertilizer," he said.

Ford, who uses many agricultural products in the manufacture of automobiles, said he believed research in this field is "just beginning."

He said recently he planned to build a factory here for construction of automobile parts.

A recently completed community house will be operated by girls of the Ways Consolidated High School, who will have an opportunity to practice cooking, sewing and general housekeeping, Ford said. He explained that his primary interest was in the children and that everything hinged around the school.

The Georgia Chemurgic Conference to be held here April 9-10 embodies the sound plan of using latent resources.

Constitution
3-13-37

Dr. Charles H. Herty, who developed paper pulp manufacture using Georgia pine, is an original member of the governing board supervising the Farm Chemurgic council. Dr. Herty's research gave a new industry to the South. It is along similar lines that the conference here will seek to translate natural and agricultural resources into commercial wealth.

W. D. Anderson, president of the Bibb Manufacturing Company, is a leader particularly qualified to direct the conference here. The textile industry is probably the oldest and still is the greatest example of the South's utilization of resources at hand.

Henry Ford's chemurgic methods are more startling because they are less familiar. He is using farm-produced soy-bean fibers in manufacture of automobile door-handles and interior fittings. Similar fiber is being employed even in machine gears. At his home at Ways, Ga., Mr. Ford recently suggested the time may come when materials for an entire automobile may be farm-produced.

Whether anybody ever grows cars on a cornstalk, Georgia is already beginning to learn that the combined abilities of science and finance can find new wealth in products that seemed poor forever in orthodox form.

When Middle Georgia learns to build wealth on its rich farm lands through development of new processes and perfection of old ones, then it will have found its way to prosperity.—Macon Telegraph.

Henry Ford Believes Nation Is Turning Back To Farms

Nearing 74, He Expects To End Unemployment Back-To-Land Movement

(Copyright, 1937, By [illegible]ss)

WAYS, Ga., Mar[illegible]—Henry Ford, approaching his birthday this Summer, said in an interview at his farm house today that he does not share John D. Rockefeller's ambition to reach a certain age.

Post
3-26-37

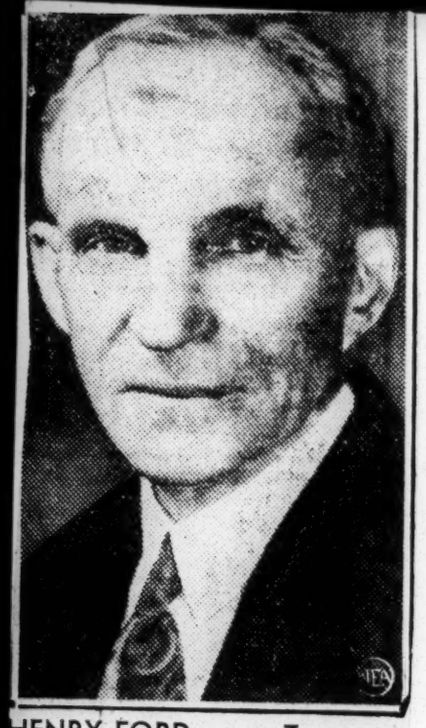
"I hope I'll be here as long as I'm useful," said the Detroit automobile manufacturer.

Ford attributed his good health to "temperance in all things" and a life of activity. He keeps busy all day on his Winter estate here, walks briskly or runs every morning and exercises after each meal. Viewing the present economic outlook, Ford said he believed a world-wide migration from urban centers back to farms is "sure to come" and will, to a large extent, solve unemployment and other economic ills."

"All the wealth comes out of the land," he said. "It's the only security in the world, and I see a new era ahead in the gradual return to the soil."

For year Ford has advocated a mixture of agriculture and industry, urging workers in manufacturing plants to have farms. His own "unit industries" in various sections of the country are surrounded by farming land. He recently announced plans to build a [illegible] plant in this community with farms [illegible] nearby.

"A man and his family can be [illegible] dren and will require a generation, working weeks would come about, self-sustaining on a farm. By [illegible] in a few years." ployment to ing a garden he is insured of his living. Of course, he men.



HENRY FORD . . . Temperate and busy.

Give Negroes a Chance

Macon county is divided on the proposal to establish a federal resettlement area for Negro farmers near Montezuma. Peach county recently rejected the project near Fort Valley, but the people around Montezuma believed it would be a good thing for the county of Macon and for all concerned.

It is pleasing to note the respectful manner in which the opponents refer to each other.

Each side recognizes the high character of the men on the opposing side; and their difference is merely in viewpoint. The counter-petitioners suggest that the federal government can help the Negroes by lending them money at low interest and on long time, making such loans available for members of both races in need of rehabilitation. There would be no community of interests. Each borrower would act individually.

This suggestion indicates that the petitioners are not opposed to the improvement of the Negro's condition; and do not wish to see him held in abject poverty; they merely want to avoid grouping them.

But it is contended that this plan will not work, although it has been tried many times by white neighbors. Crop loans and farm loans have been made from neighboring towns, and something went wrong. The landless farmer became poorer and poorer, until finally the landed farmer also went broke trying to make money out of him. A penniless man is not a good prospect for any business.

And the people to be helped in the resettlement undertaking are penniless. There seems to be but one way to get them started again, and that is to supervise their operations. Left to themselves they will plunge in to raise cash crops, while depending on somebody else to raise their food. Directed by the government, they will be required first to provide for their food and feed. Irwinville Farms tell the story. In the first two years there, the government has collected more than 75 per cent of the money advanced to the white farmers. But supervision did it. A cow, a sow, some chickens and a garden were the first consideration. After getting food the farmer could raise cash crops, and he did it; cleared money and lived better.

The Macon county lands are unsurpassed anywhere in the world, and the people of Macon county have no superiors; no county can boast finer Negroes than are to be found in Macon county. Wherever the Negro in the South has been given a showing he has proved himself worthy of confidence and encouragement. And it is gratifying to note that the people in Macon county, where the Negro is so well known and understood, have no desire to keep him in a state of despair. The differences on the resettlement idea seem to be confined to the question of supervision or no supervision. Supervision has won most victories on the farm. Farming without supervision has not been successful even in such a wonderful area as Macon county.

Macon, Ga., News
April 22, 1937

NEGRO FARMER'S PHILOSOPHY

Miles Hackney of Talliaferro county was a distinguished guest at the Avondale meeting of Negro farmers in Bibb county two weeks ago. He is distinguished because he had been chosen by the government to represent Georgia in the agricultural conference at Washington when nine southern states were asked to send a Negro representative from each to advise with Secretary Wallace's department about the needs of the Negroes in agriculture. It was stated at the meeting that Miles Hackney started out as a sharecropper after he was big enough to make a crop, and he succeeded in acquiring enough equipment and material to rise to the dignity of a tenant or renter, and as a renter he made enough to buy a farm, and now he ranks as a landowner.

Miles was called on to tell the audience how he had succeeded as a farmer. He showed no signs of undue egotism, and did not seem to feel that he had accomplished anything unusual or marvelous, but he summed up the philosophy of success for his people in this striking sentence:

"All I can advise you is to put your trust in God and work like the devil."

Adel, Ga., News
April 23, 1937

Negro Farmers Seen As Big State Asset

Agriculturists Must Learn to Protect Soil, Says Extension Worker

"Georgia's 73,000 negro farmers are a real asset to the state," declared Walter S. Brown, acting director of the Georgia agricultural extension service, in an address before a recent conference of negro vocational teachers in Albany.

The director, talking on "The Extension Service Program and Its Relation to negroes," urged education as the best means of improving the tenant situation.

"We've got to show farmers, both black and white, that it is to their own advantage to take care of the soil, whether they own it or not, to grow enough food and feed crops so they can live at home, and to do other things that will help them to make more money and live better," Brown declared.

He said that the negro farmer is so completely a part of the whole agricultural structure and is so thoroughly woven into and interlocked with the white man's interests in farming that "there is scarcely any line of distinction as to service."

The director said the extension service now has 21 negro county agents in 52 counties, and 20 negro home demonstration agents working in 24 counties. He said there is also a negro director for the agents, a negro home demonstration leader, and a negro 4-H club leader.

The speaker added that there were 22,000 negro 4-H club boys and girls in Georgia last year, 5,000 of whom raised chickens and 2,000 raised pigs and cattle.

Macon, Ga., Telegraph
June 21, 1937

NEGRO FARMER'S GOOD WORK

At a recent meeting of Negro farmers on the Woolfolk place in the Rutland district of Bibb county, Miles Hackney of Taliaferro county was presented as one of nine Negro master farmers in the nine Southern states. He had represented Georgia in a conference with the agricultural department at Washington. He has been making some experiments with Austrian peas as a substitute for commercial fertilizer, and has just submitted to S. H. Lee, colored farm agent for Bibb county, the following report:

Since I wrote you I've threshed. Made one hit in 1937, if no more. The 6 acres of wheat on land that was cleared 55 or 40 years ago was sowed with 6 bushels of blue stem wheat November 26, 1936. No fertilizer but 3 years of Austrian peas planted in October 1933—34 and 35, followed two summers with cow peas—vines and stalks turned under green.

From those 6 acres I threshed 118 bushels of well made wheat with a very unfavorable spring for grain. Many farmers in my county hardly get seed back.

On 8 acres diverted from cotton land and planted to oats and vetch last fall, I baled 9 tons and 340 pounds of choice hay. It's easy to do once you get on the right road. Will be looking forward to your August meeting, and be mighty glad to try to give inspiration if possible. Heretofore I've carried one, three, and five-acre demonstrations. This year I've started with a 70-acre demonstration. Don't know where I'll land but would rather die on the way than to never start.

Agriculture – 1937.
6
Improvement of

Michigan

DAVID CARNEGIE GOES BACK TO FARM; TELLS STORY OF SUCCESS

The name Carnegie seems to possess some charm of success—Andrew Carnegie carried it to lofty heights in steel and industry; Dale Carnegie, author of "How To Make Friends," is doing a good job in keeping it before the public, and now comes the humblest of the lot, David Carnegie, who is doing a wonderful piece of work in establishing those eight little letters as an emblem of industry and thrift in the rich farm belt of Michigan where he superintends 90 acres of his own land at R. F. D. No. 3, Paw Paw avenue, Benton Harbor.

This story about David Carnegie came to light when Robert S. Abbott, editor and publisher of The Chicago Defender, was driving through Michigan and saw a young boy painting a dairy barn a silvery hue that caused it to sparkle like a newly coined dollar just from the mint. The newspaper publisher

Robert S. Abbott David Carnegie
On Mr. Carnegie's 90-acre farm near Benton Harbor, Michigan

ventured on the premises to compliment the owner for this novel idea, and incidentally ran into a good success story, which is best related in the words of Mr. Carnegie himself.

Born in Carolina

"I was born in 1878 on a little backwoods farm in North Carolina," he began after recalling that this was the second meeting between Mr. Abbott and himself they having met once at the home of Atty. and Mrs. Charles Scrutchens in Bemidji, Minn. "And," he continued, "I lost my mother when I was nine years old and had very little schooling until I grew to manhood, but I was eager to be educated and in the summer I worked on extra gangs on railroad jobs.

"With the money I saved from this job, and by working in the field all day I finally had enough to go to Langston Agricultural Normal school where I studied for two years. At the death of my father I had to quit school to help support the little ones in the family, but I continued to study and often walked three miles at night to get someone to help me with my lessons.

"In 1902 I was married to Gertrude Abernathy of Luther, Okla., and afte two years on the farm I decided to try the city and moved to Denver, Colo., where I found employment in building constructions, coal mines anl other odd jobs. In 1917, with five children, I came to the conclusion that the city wasn't a proper place to rear children, so I began to think of having another farm.

Went to Iowa

"From Colorado I went to Iowa looking for a small farm, but found that my money was too small to buy Iowa land. But while there I heard of cheaper land in northern Minnesota. I went up there and bought 40 acres to which I brought my family. After making a small payment, I was practically broke.

"With the money from my first potato crop I bought one cow, found employment in a box factory and served on a consolidated school district board. There were six of us on the ticket, and I had the highest vote. Afterwards I was elected chairman of the school board and held the position until I moved from the district.

"In 1926 I had a public auction sale of my dairy, herd and other farm property in Bemidji and came to Michigan where I bought 90 acres just out of Benton Harbor. For more than 30 years I have kept up with what I called the 'outside world' by reading The Chicago Defender. It has helped to spur me onward and inspire me.

"With ten years in Benton Harbor, you can see how my credit has increased."

Established Credit

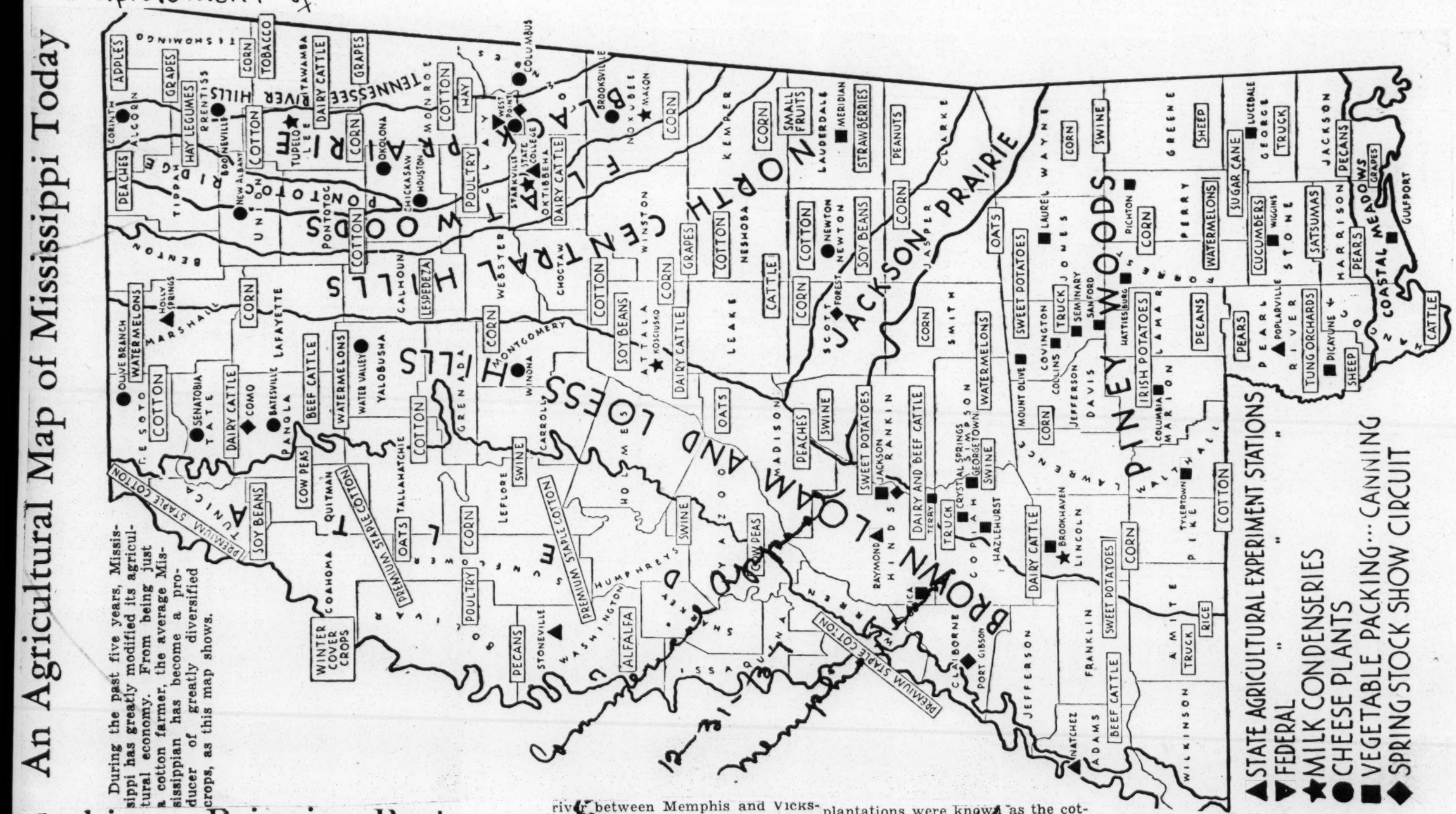
To emphasize this statement Mr. Carnegie showed the editor a letter of credit signed by Mr. Chester Monroe, president of the First National bank of Watervliet, Mich., to a Mr. Joe Barker of Claypool, Ind., which consummated a deal for live stock requiring the issuance of a large check.

"More of our people should go back to the farms," said Mr. Carnegie. "The cities are too crowded, and they can make a decent, comfortable living on the land and enjoy life. With the radio, good books, daily and weekly papers, a person is as much at home now in the country as he is in town."

Mr. Carnegie says he always demands the best of everything. "I follow this rule in seeking public accommodation when I travel and when I dine in large cities. We must make the other fellow get accustomed to seeing us in his surroundings."

Agriculture - 1937
Improvement of

Mississippi



Machinery Bringing Back Lost Glory of Big Farms In Rich Mississippi Delta

"Iron Beasts" In Form of Chugging Tractors Now Replace Long-earned Mule and Tenantry Gives Way to Cash Wages

GREENVILLE, Miss.—Fifty years ago the great cotton plantations of the South, famous for their long staple cotton, were located in Tunica, Coahoma, Bolivar, Washington and Issaquena Counties in the fertile Yazoo-Mississippi Delta area.

Many of them fronted on the river between Memphis and Vicksburg, following the tortuous bends of the Mississippi, each with its own steamboat landing. The palatial packet boats that plied the river in those days would stop at one of these plantation landings and take on from 5000 to 8000 bales of cotton bound for New Orleans and the export market.

The long staple cotton coming from the plantations along the river bends came to be known to the cotton trade as "benders." It was usually one and one-eighth inch staple and commanded the highest price paid for cotton. The rich Delta land produced as much as a bale or a bale and a half to the acre. The owners of these great plantations were known as the cotton kings of America.

Thousands of Mules

Among the more affluent of these were the Richardsons—Edward Richardson and W. P. Richardson of New Orleans—who owned and operated quite a number of these plantations in the Yazoo Delta. In Washington County alone they owned and operated Glen Mary, Refuge, East Refuge, Shawneetown, Deerfield, Swiftwater, Hollywood and LaGrange plantations, just below Greenville, with a combined operation of more than 23,000 acres.

There were thousands of mules and thousands of hands employed in making and gathering the crop and scarcely a day passed but that one of the great sidewheel steamers was to be seen at Refuge Landing either unloading supplies or taking on cotton. Some of the great packets were even named after these important operators in the cotton trade.

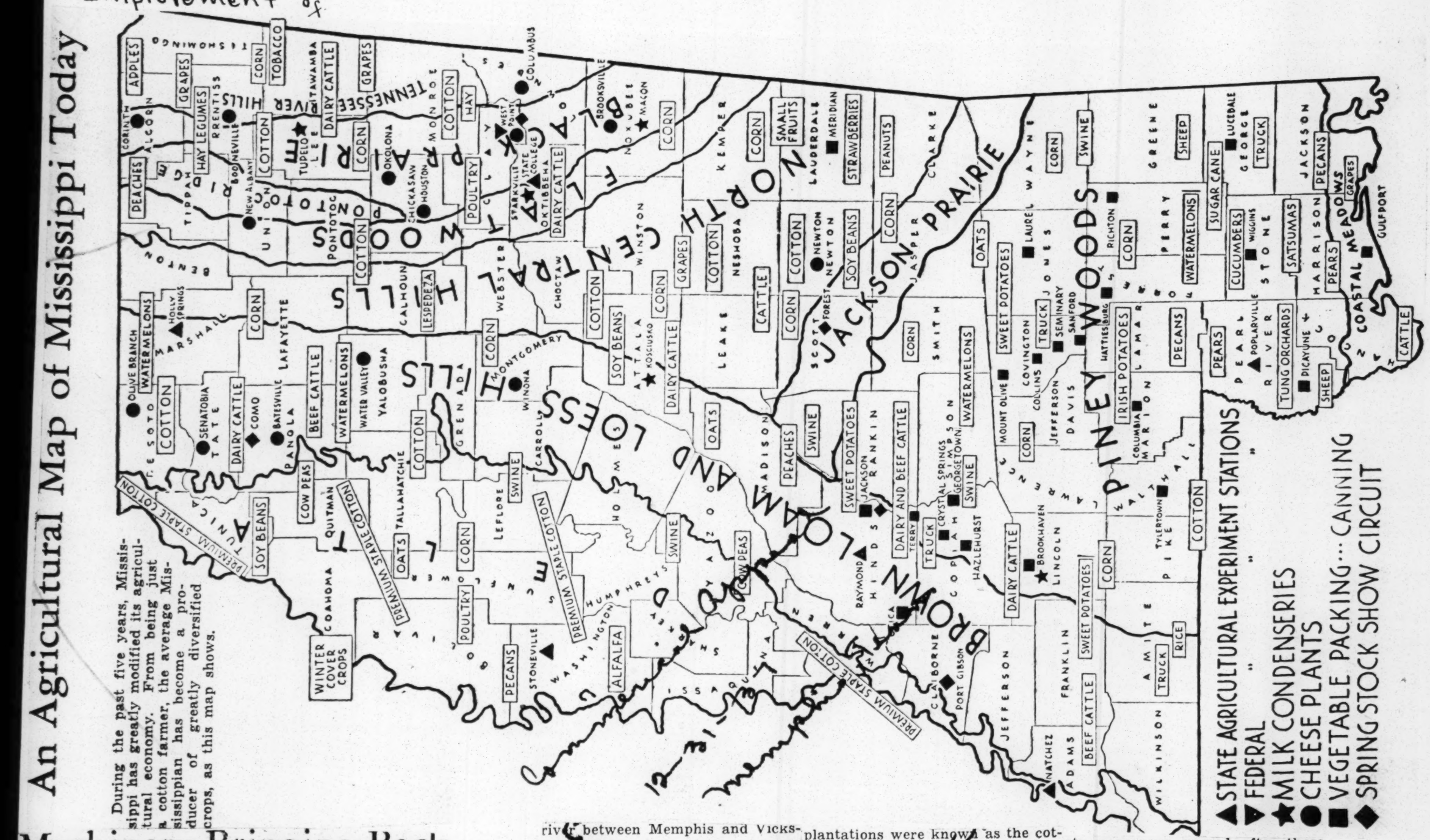
Furniture from Europe

Those were the days when pretentious plantation mansions were built and furnished with the best that Europe could send; when brilliant social events and plantation house-parties were the order of the day; when the guests came by specially chartered sidewheel steamers either from Memphis, Vicksburg or New Orleans—the days when cotton was king and maintained our balance of trade with Europe.

With the coming of the new century, things began to change. The price of cotton went down, the devastating floods became more frequent and vast sums had to be spent by the landowners to raise and strengthen the levee systems

Agriculture-1937
Improvement of

Mississippi



Machinery Bringing Back Lost Glory of Big Farms In Rich Mississippi Delta

"Iron Beasts" In Form of Chugging Tractors Now Replace Long-earned Mule and Tenantry Gives Way to Cash Wages

GREENVILLE, Miss.—Fifty years ago the great cotton plantations of the South, famous for their long staple cotton, were located in Tunica, Coahoma, Bolivar, Washington and Issaquena Counties in the fertile Yazoo-Mississippi Delta area.

Many of them fronted on the river between Memphis and Vicksburg following the tortuous bends of the Mississippi, each with its own steamboat landing. The palatial packet boats that plied the river in those days would stop at one of these plantation landings and take on from 5000 to 8000 bales of cotton bound for New Orleans and the export market.

The long staple cotton coming from the plantations along the river bends came to be known to the cotton trade as "benders." It was usually one and one-eighth inch staple and commanded the highest price paid for cotton. The rich Delta land produced as much as a bale or a bale and a half to the acre. The owners of these great plantations were known as the cotton kings of America.

Thousands of Mules

Among the more affluent of these were the Richardsons—Edward Richardson and W. P. Richardson of New Orleans—who owned and operated quite a number of these plantations in the Yazoo Delta. In Washington County alone they owned and operated Glen Mary, Refuge, East Refuge, Shawneetown, Deerfield, Swiftwater, Hollywood and LaGrange plantations, just below Greenville, with a combined operation of more than 23,000 acres.

There were thousands of mules and thousands of hands employed in making and gathering the crop and scarcely a day passed but that one of the great sidewheel steamers was to be seen at Refuge Landing either unloading supplies or taking on cotton. Some of the great packets were even named after these important operators in the cotton trade.

Furniture from Europe

Those were the days when pretentious plantation mansions were built and furnished with the best that Europe could send; when brilliant social events and plantation house-parties were the order of the day; when the guests came by specially chartered sidewheel steamers either from Memphis, Vicksburg or New Orleans—the days when cotton was king and maintained our balance of trade with Europe.

With the coming of the new century, things began to change. The price of cotton went down, the devastating floods became more frequent and vast sums had to be spent by the landowners to raise and strengthen the levee systems

that protected these bottom lands.

Then later the boll weevil came, and the export demand fell off and cheap transportation by the river route disappeared with the passing of the steamboats, driven out by the rapidly increasing railroad lines. Mortgages were foreclosed and these large cotton plantations fell into the hands of the banks and insurance companies to which they had been pledged as security for loans when distress conditions overtook the planters.

Absentee ownership, the share-cropper and gross mismanagement contributed to the deterioration of the land and the depreciation of the buildings and improvements as years went on, and the magnificent Refuge plantations ceased to produce the crops they once did and gradually fell back to appear as abandoned or worn-out lands. Some of the land was allowed to grow up in thicket and woods—land with an alluvial soil 2000 feet deep.

Two years ago the 15,000 acres at Refuge was not producing crops enough to justify a sale value of $20 an acre. It was bought by local men, in tracts varying from 360 acres to 4000 acres, men who appreciated the inherent value of the land and knew that the fault was not in the land but in the management and method of cultivation.

Now Use Machinery

When W. T. Wynn, H. B. Crosby and V. L. Nunnery bought 4000 acres of this land a little over a year ago they decided to operate it by modern machine methods and with hired labor. For more than 20 years it had been handled by absentee owners on the tenant, or share-crop plan, each negro tenant caring for from 40 to 100 acres, the owners or the banks, or some merchant financing them. The new owners have revolutionized all this. They are operating the plantation outright and using 10 great tractors for cultivating the crop. The remarkable production of the past year speaks for itself.

Agriculture - 1937
6 Improvement of

Mississippi

Economy of Man and Soil Extolled As Prime Factor For Planting To Prosper

1937 WINNERS FETED

215 Mid-South Farm Families Guests of Honor at Forum and Dinner

AGRICULTURAL LEADERS LAUD PROGRAM'S AIMS

Advantages Exemplified By Champion Growers

By HARRY MARTIN

The challenge of a dual economy embracing conservation of man as well as land and resources was proclaimed to the 215 diversification champions of Dixie here yesterday as the 1937 Plant To Prosper Competition came to its climax.

Gathered for the annual day dedicated to their honor, the year's live-at-home winners and their families heard a Government cotton control official, a financier representative concerned with agriculture, and a teacher of better farming expound the need for human conservation and soil conservation in the morning's Mid-South Farm Forum at Ellis Auditorium.

Toured and Theatered

In the afternoon, after a luncheon at the Claridge, these guests of The Commercial Appeal and the Memphis Chamber of Commerce were whirled about the city's various points of interest and were present at a Loew's State theater party, fittingly guided throughout the day by farm county agents and home demonstration agents who aided in steering them to victory.

Feted last night with the annual Plant To Prosper Dinner at the Peabody, they were formally presented with the competition awards for a year of triumph in balanced farm operation, their prizes ranging from the County Certificate of Honor to the $500 cash award and grand Sweepstakes Trophy captured by C. W. Armstrong, the 40-year-old Tishomingo County (Miss.) sawmill hand who turned an exhausted hill tract into a prosperous enterprise within seven years through diversification.

For Mr. Armstrong and his fellow winners—indeed for untold legions among the record-breaking 14,000 who participated in the 1937 Competition—Planting To Prosper had again brought rewards far greater than the prizes distributed last night, and it was a day and a night of celebration for a bountiful and balanced harvest as well as for the acceptance of signal honors.

1938 Plans Under Way

So successful was the competition that plans were immediately laid at a conference yesterday afternoon for its continuation on an enlarged scale in 1938, an added feature for the coming year being a separate contest for negro farmers.

It was I. W. Duggan of Washington, successor to Cully Cobb as acting director of the AAA cotton section, who sounded the keynote of the day with a plea to the farmers to co-operate among themselves in the furtherance of a five-point program in their behalf.

Voicing his praise for the Plant-To-Prosper Competition and tracing The Commercial Appeal's efforts for diversified farming back to his own memories of the late C. P. J. Mooney, Mr. Duggan called for:

"1. Conservation and development of our soil resources.

"2. Conservation and development of our human resources.

"3. The growth of sufficient food and feed to meet requirements of the family and livestock.

"4. The development of new uses for cotton.

"5. The development of a program for cotton which, over a period of years, will give the greatest possible revenue."

Urged Planned Program

The importance of a planned farm management program was outlined by J. E. Willis, associate economist at the University of Tennessee's Department of Agriculture, who devoted much of his forum address to the need for self-sufficiency within the individual farm. He emphasized the necessity for feeding family and stock from the farm, insuring sufficient cash receipts to buy the other necessities, diversification of both production and income, efficiency in the use of labor and power and soil conservation.

The third forum speaker, Dan H. Otis, of Madison, Wis., director of the Agricultural Commission for the American Bankers Association, also trained verbal guns on the prime question of soil conservation, asserting that bankers and business men are vitally interested in the salvation of natural resources.

"How long can business succeed in any community where the fertile soil is being washed away faster than it can be replaced?" he asked. "The soil problem is a problem for every citizen, a mutual concern of banking and business."

Program Broadcast

R. B. Snowden Jr., chairman of the Chamber of Commerce Agricultural Committee, presided at the forum and the Claridge luncheon. Spicing the intervals between addresses was the music of WPA band under the direction of Harry Dillman. Much of the proceedings was broadcast over WMC.

After their bus ride through the city and visits to places of interest, the visitors saw "Thank You, Mr. Moto" at Loew's State, and then went to the Peabody for the annual dinner, presided over by W. C. Teague, editorial writer for The Commercial Appeal. There, certificates and prizes totaling $2750 were distributed in recognition of the manner in which winning farmers have made Plant To Prosper ideals come true this season.

It was a thrilling occasion as farmers and their wives, varying in types from the humblest tenant to the proudest landlord, stood up at the banquet table to receive their awards. For Mississippi, disribution was made by E. H. White, state extension director; for Arkansas, Miss Etna McGaugh, district agent in Little Rock; for Tennessee, bull-voiced H. S. Nichols, assistant state extension director; and for Missouri, a newcomer in the Plant To Prosper lists, C. C. Hearne, extension agent, of Columbia. For enrolling 1619 families in the competition, Mr. Teague bestowed the Enrollment Trophy on the extension staff of Mississippi County, Ark.

Sweepstakes Trophies

Frank R. Ahlgren, executive editor of The Commercial Appeal, made the presentation of The Commercial Appeal's Tenant Sweepstakes Award and The Commercial Appeal Sweepstakes Trophy. Mr. Snowden presented the $500 Sweepstakes award given by the Chamber of Commerce Agriculture committee.

Machinery for the 1938 competition will be set in motion at an early date, it was announced by the sponsors.

HILL FARMER CROWNED

C. W. Armstrong of Tishomingo County Rewarded With Sweepstakes Trophy

TENANT, NOW LANDOWNER, SHARES CONTEST LAURELS

Mr. and Mrs. H. L. Majure Lead Sharecroppers

By EUGENE RUTLAND

Tall, lean C. W. Armstrong, 40-year-old former sawmill hand of Tishomingo County, Miss., who took a wornout hill farm and converted it into a paying business in seven years, is the 1937 Champion Plant To Prosper Farmer of the Mid-South.

Mr. Armstrong and his 41-year-old wife defeated 14,000 other farm families in Arkansas, Mississippi, Tennessee and Missouri to win The Commercial Appeal Sweepstakes Trophy, symbolic of excellence in diversified farming and living-at-home, and the $500 cash award given by the Memphis Chamber of Commerce Agriculture Committee.

Awards Distributed

They received their awards last night at the fourth annual Plant To Prosper Dinner at the Peabody before more than 500 guests.

All other Sweepstakes awards went to Arkansas families.

Mr. and Mrs. H. L. Majure, tenant farmers of Phillips County, Ark., are the champion tenant farmers of the Mid-South and the winners of the $250 cash award given by The Commercial Appeal to the tenant family making the best record in living-at-home, diversification, soil conservation and farm and home improvement. They defeated approximately 5000 tenant farmers in the Mid-South to win top honors.

Others Also Honored

Mr. and Mrs. Godfrey L. White, young plantation operators, of Osceola, Ark., who provide good houses and food for their 25 families of day laborers, are the winners of The Commercial Appeal's Plant To Prosper Plantation Trophy, given to the plantation operator who gave his tenants or farm labor the best opportunity to make a success in agriculture in 1937.

Because of the vast improvements they made to their tenant home during the year with their own hands, Mr. and Mrs. R. A. Greenway of Dell, Ark., in Mississippi County, were awarded first place and $100 in the home improvement division.

Second place in the home improvement contest went to Mr. and Mrs. Cliff R. Hall of Burnsville, Miss., who received a cash award of $60. And third place, with an award of $40, went to Mr. and Mrs. Tom Stone of Ripley, Tenn., in Lauderdale County.

Enrollment Trophy

Mississippi County, Ark., won the Plant To Prosper Enrollment Trophy. It was presented to Miss Cora Lee Coleman of Blytheville, Mrs. O. H. Ford of Wilson, E. H. Burns of Osceola, and D. S. Lantrip of Blytheville, extension officials of the county. They enrolled 1619 families in the competition.

The Plant To Prosper Extension Trophy in the landowner group went to Miss Irene Talbert and Johnnie Witt of Tishomingo County for supervision of the sweepstakes winner, and the Plant To Prosper Extension Trophy in the tenant division went to Miss Ruth Mayo and J. J. White of Phillips County, for their supervision of the tenant sweepstakes winner.

Six farmers from each state also were awarded cash prizes by The Commercial Appeal. They were:

ARKANSAS — Landowner division: Mr. and Mrs. Lee Garland of Hope; first;, $100; Mr. and Mrs. Godfrey White of Osceola, second, $75; Mr. and Mrs. A. F. Seidenstricker of DeValls Bluff, third, $50. In the tenant-division, Mr. and Mrs. H. L. Majure of Poplar Grove, first, $100; Mr. and Mrs. R. A. Greenway of Dell, second, $75; and Mr. and Mrs. Walter Adair, Lake City, third, $50.

MISSISSIPPI — Landowner division: Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Armstrong, Belmont, first, $100; Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Henry, Pontotoc, second, $75; Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Miskelley, Blue Mountain, third, $50. And in the tenant division, Mr. and Mrs. Tom H. Mitchell, New Albany, first, $100; Mr. and Mrs. Cliff R. Hall, Burnsville, second, $75, and Mr. and Mrs. Robert Demilio, Clarksdale, third, $50.

MISSOURI—Landowner division: Mr. and Mrs. O. R. Long, Bloomfield, first, $100; Mr. and Mrs. L. H. Gale, Hayti, second, $75; and Mr. and Mrs. Ivor Florea, Alton, third, $50. In the tenant division, Mr. and Mrs. John W. Asher Sr., Caruthersville, first, $100; Mr. and Mrs. Bert H. Branscom, Arbyrd, second, $75, and Mr. and Mrs. John D. Twitty of Lilbourne, third, $50.

TENNESSEE—Landowner division: Mr. and Mrs. Charles S. Howell, Bath Springs, first, $100; Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Luckey, Humboldt, second, $75, and Mr. and Mrs. M. A. Reed of Martin, third, $50. In the tenant division, Mr. and Mrs. F. M. Carter, Humboldt, first, $100; Mr. and Mrs. Tom Stone of Ripley, second, $75, and Mr. and Mrs. Erie Jordan Parsons, third, $50.

Agriculture - 1937
16
Improvement of

Mississippi.

'Freak' Cotton For Mechanical Picker Studied

WIGGINS, MISS., Jan. 30.—(AP)—While the Rust brothers, of Memphis, are concentrating on a mechanical cotton picker to suit the cotton patch, W. M. Batson, Stone County, Miss., planter, is concentrating on a cotton patch to suit the mechanical picker.

From a "freak" stalk of cotton found on his farm four years ago, Batson has developed a variety of cotton which he believes will be ideal for mechanical harvesting.

The stalk has no limbs, less foliage than ordinary varieties and grows two bolls to the square and bloom.

Because of the double boll, it fruits much heavier than ordinary cotton. The bolls grow directly from the stalk.

Admitting that the Batson cotton is "unusual," State Department of Agriculture experts make no predictions for the cotton because it has not been thoroughly tested at an experiment station.

Mississippi Co-op Farm Shows Profit

HILLHOUSE, Miss., (ANP) After all expenses were deducted from a gross income of $19,000, more than $9,000 was distributed to thirty-one families, with each family receiving an average of $306, as a result of the first year's experiment at the interracial cooperative farm here, according to Sam H. Franklin, Jr.

The Consumer Co-operative Farm, started in March, 1936, by Dr. Sherwood Eddy, lecturer and writer, is operated by a council of five composed of three white and two colored members. Thirteen colored and sixteen white families live on the farm, purchased for $17.500.

America's Largest Plantation, 135 Miles From Memphis, Has Surprising Story of Success

Sixty Square Miles Covered With Cotton Nets Delta & Pine Land Co. $153,604 In 1936—Manager Oscar Johnston Lauded by Fortune Magazine

BY ROBERT TALLEY

The intimate story of America's biggest cotton plantation which spreads over 60 square miles in the Mississippi delta, is owned by British capitalists, managed by a Mississippian and which last year showed a net profit of $153,604 is told in the current issue of Fortune Magazine, copies of which were received in Memphis yesterday.

It is the Delta & Pine Land Co. of Scott, Miss., whose 38,000 acres and 1,000 negro share cropper families are bossed by stolid, double-chinned Oscar Johnston, once a candidate for governor of the state, who last year collected $30,000 in salaries and $32,500 in bonuses. A part of this personal income came from an 8,800-acre plantation at Deeson, Miss., owned by Dutch capitalists, which Mr. Johnston also manages and which last year showed a net profit of $125,000.

The rich Mississippi delta, the article explains, "begins in the fountained lobby of the Peabody Hotel at Memphis and extends southward to the negro shacks and crap games of Catfish Row, Vicksburg." Most fertile river land in the world, it often has as much as 40 feet of black alluvial soil "in which, it has been said, you can grow anything you can drop on the ground. This is THE cotton land of the U. S. and of its 4,500,000 acres Oscar Johnston has the biggest hunk under one management."

Of its 38,000 acres, the Delta & Pine Land Co., now plants some 11,700 to cotton. The crop is cultivated by 3,300 negroes, representing 1,000 share cropper families, and the enterprise has total assets of around $5,000,000. There are outstanding debts of about $5,200,000 divided between $3,000,000 of first mortgage five per cent bonds and $2,200,000 of second mortgage obligations. There are some 3,000 shares of $100 par common stock outstanding and also an $800,000 suspense account on which no interest is being paid.

15,000 Bales In 1936

"But Mr. Johnston's success can't be measured with Delta & Pine Land's capital and debt structure," says Fortune. "The financial history of D. P. L., before Mr. Johnston arrived in 1927, reveals only one dividend—of 20 per cent—in 1920. Things have been better since then. As a cotton manager, Mr. Johnston must be called a resounding success. His success may be measured by the fact that last year D. P. L. raised 638 pounds per acre—15,000 bales in all—of premium grade lint cotton . . . . and got a maximum price of 13.25 cents per pound. In contrast, the average U. S. cotton farmer raised only 187 pounds per acre and commanded an average of about 11.9 cents per pound. D. P. L. raised 950 pounds of cotton seed per acre, getting a cottonseed-oil mill price of $40 a ton, as against a U. S. average of 500 pounds and $32 per ton."

The big plantation's gross earnings, which naturally do not include the half of the crop returns which were paid to its sharecroppers, were $879,000, of which cotton returned $463,000 and seed $120,000. (Other earnings included $88,500 from marketing profits. $68,000 from cotton lands leased to the government, $55,000 from ginning, $45,000 net from stores, etc., etc.) The gross expenses were $361,000. Thus Mr. Johnston had a gross operating profit of $518,000. After deductions for bond interest, taxes and bonuses, the plantation showed net earnings of $153,600.

Origin, History Interesting

The origin and history of Delta & Pine Land is an interesting story, Fortune reveals. In 1910, the Fine Cotton Spinners & Doublers' Association, Ltd., of Manchester, England, a great combine of some 50-odd cotton mills, had a serious shortage of long staple cotton ordinarily obtained from Egypt. Looking for new sources of production, a group of F. S. A. directors came to Mississippi in 1911 to look around. They came at the invitation of L. K. Salsbury, widely known in Memphis, who at that time had options on thousands of acres of delta land in conjunction with Charles Scott, a Mississippi banker.

"Messrs. Salsbury and Scott took the Englishmen wild goose shooting in specially dug pits along the banks of the Mississippi," Fortune relates. "What with sport and salesmanship and the look of the delta, most of the Englishmen were impressed and were able to blink a the (then) advancing boll weevil. A deal was arranged . . ."

The English investors paid $3,000,000 for what is substantially Delta & Pine's property today about $95 an acre. Thereafter they spent an additional $1,500,000 for acquiring more land, clearing, draining, building cabins, etc. Two landholding companies were set up and also an operating company, called the Mississippi Planting Co., with Mr. Salsbury as president of the latter. In 1919, the three companies were merged under the rather cumbersome title of the Delta & Pine Land Co.

Plantation Flooded

Mr. Salsbury had hardly taken office in 1912 when the Mississippi River went on one of its spring rampages, flooding a large part of the plantation. Mules and men had to be used for fighting the river that spring and as the result the world's largest cotton plantation that year produced only 2,800 bales—as against the 15,000 bales raised on a reduced planted acreage last year.

Then came the ravages of the boll weevil and more misfortune for Mr. Salsbury and the British owners. But not all their trouble arose from natural causes, says Fortune.

"In 1919," continues the magazine, "cotton went crazy. D. P. L.'s cotton soared to all-time highs around 85 cents a pound. Mr. Salsbury paid his sharecroppers at a high price but the market was still upping and he decided to hold his share for what promised to be a fabulous killing. He was still holding it in the spring of 1920 and then cotton began dropping, reaching 15 cents before the end of the year. . . . The final result was that the great crop of 1919 was sold years later at six cents per pound. A potential profit of $3,000,000 thus became an actual loss of $1,000,000."

In the 15 years between 1912 and 1927 the British owners, who had invested $4,500,000 to start with, plowed $3,000,000 more into the plantation and got a dividend in only one year, 1920, says Fortune.

And then, as if the first 15 years hadn't been bad enough, in April, 1927, came another great Mississippi River flood. The entire plantation was overflowed, 1,250 acres were lost to erosion and the necessity of relocating levees, some 3,500 acres were temporarily blighted by sand deposits, more than 100 houses destroyed and 200 mules drowned. No crop could be grown in 1927 and D. P. L.'s total flood damage was estimated at a half million dollars.

That year the flooded and weevil plantation got a new president in the person of Mr. Johnston. "On the April morning when the levee broke he assisted in the evacuation of all tenants and livestock," says Fortune, "but he was also thinking fast about other things. He foresaw a flood-season cotton shortage and presently began to buy cotton futures on the New York Cotton Exchange. While the waters slowly receded from his plantation (the outflow lasted until July) he went on playing the cotton market. He played it from 14 cents in April and liquidated his holdings at the fall prices of between 18 and 22 cents. All told, he made $200,000 in the cotton market for the rehabilitation of D. P. L."

Now for the plantation's record under Mr. Johnston's management:

	Operating Profit
1928	$269,000
1929	206,000
1930	250,000
1931	255,000
1932	88,000
1933	249,000
1934	243,000
1935	259,000
1936	518,000

x—Denotes deficit.

Highlights Spotted

Highlights in Mr. Johnston's cotton management are easily spotted, says the magazine. First, when he took over Delta & Pine, about 15 per cent of the sharecroppers were on a "three-quarters" basis, meaning that they supplied their own mules and tools in addition to their labor. These he changed to the customary "halves" basis, the plantation supplying the mules and tools. In this way he got good, healthy mules and tools that were not forever needing repair.

Under his system of management, the big plantation was divided into 11 units with a unit boss in charge of each. Each manager supervises about 100 cropper families and about 1,000 cotton acres. The average cropper family tends about 12 acres. The unit managers live on their units, get a house with electricity and running water, cow feed, garden, pigs, etc., plus salary of $150 a month and 10 to 15 per cent bonuses in good years. All orders to tenants are issued through the unit managers.

Scientific laboratories test the seed and have succeeded in the past 15 years in producing a seed that will yield 20 per cent more cotton on a plant that will mature six weeks earlier, thus reducing the weevil danger. The same idea of efficiency is carried out throughout the processes of cultivation, ginning, etc. Airplanes are used to dust the plants with calcium arsenate to reduce weevil menace, the tenant and the landlord dividing the cost of this as they do the cost of fertilizing materials.

97 Babies Delivered

Negro sharecroppers are advanced the usual credit and housed in homes with sanitary outdoor toilets, but these homes are not screened "because the croppers normally punch holes in the screens to let the dogs in or throw the slops out." Health supervision by plantation doctors costs only $9 a year per family and women are encouraged to have their babies in the plantation hospital because the doctor charges $20 for delivery in the cabins. Last year 97 babies were delivered. Free inoculations combat typhoid, the plantation distributes a half ton of free yeast among the negroes each year to banish the possibility of pellagra. They like the yeast and, consequently, pellagra is practically nonexistent.

Barring odd jobs, the average sharecropper in the United States last year had a cash income of not more than $100. Here is the record of those on the Delta & Pine Land Co. plantation:

	Credit during season per family	Cash at end of season	Total
1933	$220	$185	$405
1934	211	250	461
1935	216	230	446
1936	205	320	525

"When a cropper has a deficit at the end of the year," says Fortune, "the Delta & Pine, as is the general southern custom, writes it off, clears the debt."

Debt Reduced $250,000

Since Mr. Johnston took over the plantation its outstanding debt has been reduced approximately $250,000. Present debt outstanding is $3,000,000 of 5 per cent first mortgage bonds and $2,500,000 of second mortgage 5 per cent debentures, representing the accumulated debit balances after the advance of funds by the British owners between 1911 and 1932. And the $800,000 suspense account previously mentioned. The plantation has paid all its current obligations and has no other debts than those owed the British investors. And last year these British creditors got D. P. L.'s finest income statement—a net profit of $153,604.

In the 1936 campaign the Republicans broadcast that the New Deal had been paying its fourth largest benefits for plowing under cotton to a plantation which wasn't even owned by U. S. citizens, but by citizens of the British empire—meaning the Delta & Pine Land. Senator Vandenberg of Michigan took pains to point out that the president of this plantation was also manager of the New Deal's cotton pool, and, obviously, a good friend of Secretary Wallace.

Government Makes $37,000

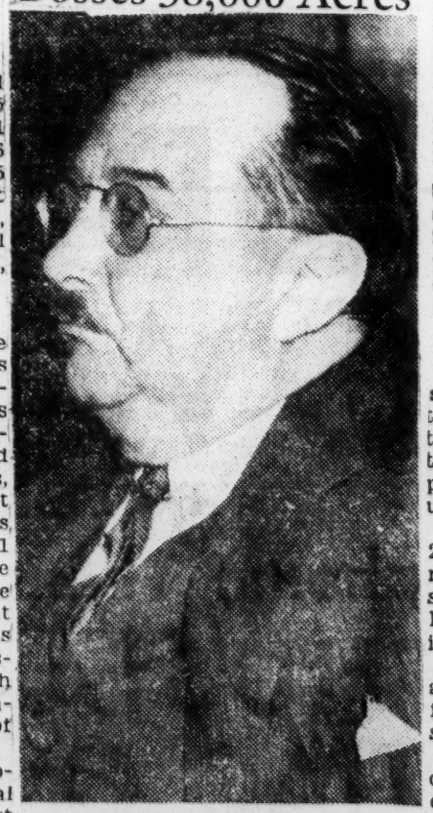
"Mr. Johnston didn't bother to say anything at the time," says Fortune. "He does say privately that for last year about $68,000 is due his plantation in benefits from the New Deal and that for last year's operations his plantation will pay about $105,000 in income taxes to the U. S. Thus, the government make about $37,000 out of Oscar Johnston's plantation."

The apparent disproportion of the $105,000 income tax to the $153,600 net income is because U. S. laws provide that corporations must pay a 15 per cent income on interest remitted abroad, explains Fortune, and all the plantation's outstanding debt is British owned. The 1936 interest on the first mortgage debt was $154,783, that on the second mortgage $110,000, while $66,551 was set aside for federal income and excess profits taxes.

And now for the most surprising thing of all:

Strangely enough, none of this British-owned plantation's crop is exported. Very shortly after the Manchester spinners acquired it they learned that, chiefly owing to the bool weevil, it was impractical to grow the extra-long staple cotton they desired, because it matures late in the year.

Bosses 38,000 Acres



Oscar Johnston

Sweet Potato May Be Queen, Sharing King Cotton's Throne

Production For Starch Proving Profitable In Mississippi

By PAUL D. SHOEMAKER
Associated Press Farm Editor

LAUREL, MISS., April 18—(AP)—King Cotton, long the cash crop of Southern Agriculture, often manhandled by world economic conditions and now threatened by increasing production in Brazil and other countries appears far from abdication, but the year may be coming when he will share his throne with a queen.

There is divergence among Southern planters as to what member of the vegetable kingdom will edge onto the throne.

Perhaps Jones County, Mississippi, will come forward with the answer and name Queen sweet potato. Development of an alliance between agriculture and industry, sponsored by the U. S. Department of Agriculture and other agencies indicate the possibility.

Three years ago the Federal Relief Administration, interested in developing an agricultural industry, allotted $150,000 for construction, equipping and operation of a plant to manufacture commercial starch from sweet potatoes.

The plant set up in an abandoned saw mill, produced 140,000 pounds of starch the first year at a cost, including raw materials, of 13 cents a pound. Cost was reduced to 10 cents a pound in 1935 with production of 250,000.

Manufacturing involved a rather complicated chemical process in order to produce a pure white starch. Then a chemist discovered that a better product could be obtained by merely adding concentrated lime water to the sweet potatoes as they were cut. The 1936 manufacturing cost of 420,000 pounds was reduced to three cents a pound.

Farmers are divided on whether it is profitable to grow sweet potatoes for commercial use. Some claim there is no profit at 20 cents a bushel, even though culls, cut and bruised potatoes are accepted. This group argues the price is not right, that sweet potatoes for the edible market bring upwards of $1 or more a bushel.

Others declare there is profit at 20 cents a bushel and assert they make as much as the grower who sells to the edible market because the latter must grade to a certain size in order to command the higher price.

A third group claim they break about even at 20 cents a bushel, but feel they should continue "because something may come of this thing."

Yields of 250 to 300 bushels, run of the field, are not uncommon, and one test acre covered with 110 pounds of fertilizer produced 497 bushels last year. Under quantity fertilization the plants literally "go wild" producing some tubers as big around as a peck measure.

For the 1937 crop, due to the chemist's discovery, growers will receive 30 cents a bushel. At this price a farmer producing 300 bushels on an acre will receive $90, which Neil declared "is far more than can be made from cotton at 12 or 13 cents a pound in this part of the country."

Henry G. Night, chief of the U. S. Bureau of Chemistry and soils, which has done research work in connection with the plant is authority for the statement that the United States uses about 250,000 million pounds of root starch annually, most of which is imported, made from cassava, a tropical plant. Practically all the 800,000 pounds of cereal starch consumed is produced domestically from corn wheat and rice.

W. R. Richee, manager of the plant said a bushel of sweet potatoes produce about 12 pounds of starch, which sells for four and a fraction cents a pound and about four and one half pounds of pulp cattle feed, which brings $30 a ton. Most of the starch is sold to the textile industry in the South for warping cotton cloth. Mills using the sweet potato starch, Richee said, have reduced yarn breakage to a minimum.

The plant was deeded by Federal agencies to the Mississippi State College experiment stations and is now operated by a farmers' cooperative under a $1 a year lease.

Use of sweet potatoes as a raw material for conversion into power alcohol is being investigated at a number of points in the South.

Farmer Is Called Champion Sweet Potato Grower

VAUGHN, Miss., Nov. 18—(ANP)—E. W. Williams, colored farmer of this county has the distinction of being a champion grower of sweet potatoes. Both from the standpoint of size and poundage per vine, Williams' 1937 crop is particularly outstanding. The returns from two average hills was 54 pounds or one pound less than a bushel. In these two hills several of the potatoes weighed eight, seven, six and four pounds each. His record for this year is attested by leading white and colored farmers and business men of this city.

Agriculture-1937
Improvement of.

Mississippi.

Sweet Potato May Be Queen, Sharing King Cotton's Throne

Production For Starch Proving Profitable In Mississippi

By PAUL D. SHOEMAKER
Associated Press Farm Editor

LAUREL, Miss., April 18—(AP)—King Cotton, long the cash crop of Southern Agriculture, often manhandled by world economic conditions and now threatened by increasing production in Brazil and other countries appears far from abdication but the year may be coming when he will share his throne with a queen.

There is divergence among Southern planters as to what member of the vegetable kingdom will edge onto the throne.

Perhaps Jones County, Mississippi, will come forward with the answer and name Queen sweet potato. Development of an alliance between agriculture and industry, sponsored by the U. S. Department of Agriculture and other agencies indicate the possibility.

Three years ago the Federal Relief Administration, interested in developing an agricultural industry, allotted $150,000 for construction, equipping and operation of a plant to manufacture commercial starch from sweet potatoes.

The plant, set up in an abandoned saw mill, produced 140,000 pounds of starch the first year at a cost, including raw materials, of 13 cents a pound. Cost was reduced to 10 cents a pound in 1935 with production of 250,000.

Manufacturing involved a rather complicated chemical process in order to produce a pure white starch. Then a chemist discovered that a better product could be obtained by merely adding concentrated lime water to the sweet potatoes as they were cut. The 1936 manufacturing cost of 420,000 pounds was reduced to three cents a pound.

Farmers are divided on whether it is profitable to grow sweet potatoes for commercial use. Some claim there is no profit at 20 cents a bushel, even though culls, cut and bruised potatoes are accepted. This group argues the price is not right, that sweet potatoes for the edible market bring upwards of $1 or more a bushel.

Others declare there is profit at 20 cents a bushel and assert they make as much as the grower who sells to the edible market because the latter must grade to a certain size in order to command the higher price.

A third group claim they break about even at 20 cents a bushel, but feel they should continue "because something may come of this thing."

Yields of 250 to 300 bushels, run of the field, are not uncommon, and one test acre covered with 110 pounds of fertilizer produced 497 bushels last year. Under quantity fertilization the plants literally "go wild" producing some tubers as big around as a peck measure.

For the 1937 crop, due to the chemist's discovery, growers will receive 30 cents a bushel. At this price a farmer producing 300 bushels on an acre will receive $90. which Neil declared "is far more than can be made from cotton at 12 or 13 cents a pound in this part of the country."

Henry G. Night, chief of the U. S Bureau of Chemistry and soils, which has done research work in connection with the plant is authority for the statement that the United States uses about 250,000 million pounds of root starch annually, most of which is imported, made from cassava, a tropical plant. Practically all the 800,000 pounds of cereals each consumed is produced domestically from corn, wheat and rice.

W. R. Richee, manager of the plant said a bushel of sweet potatoes produce about 12 pounds of starch, which sells for four and a fraction cents a pound and about four and one half pounds of pulp cattle feed, which brings $30 a ton. Most of the starch is sold to the textile industry in the South for warping cotton cloth. Mills using the sweet potato starch, Richee said, have reduced yarn breakage to a minimum.

The plant was deeded by Federal agencies to the Mississippi State College experiment stations and is now operated by a farmers' cooperative under a $1 a year lease.

Use of sweet potatoes as a raw material for conversion into power alcohol is being investigated at a number of points in the South.

$350,000 Farm Benefit Ch... Paid Delta Pine Land Fi...

New York
Day By-Day
BY O. O. M'INTYRE

WASHINGTON, July 10—(AP)—A letter defending the payment of a $300,000 farm benefit check to a large southern farm corporation said today that the firm might have made $500,000 more if it had notcut acreage in the crop reduction program.

The letter was made public by farm administration officials. It was written by Oscar Johnston, former assistant AAA administrator and president of the Delta Pine and Land Company of Mississippi. Senator Vandenberg (R) Michigan, a critic of AAA payments, had asked for details of these payments. The letter was forwarded to Vandenberg.

Johnston said his corporation received $363,002.57 in farm benefit payments during the past four years. He said that if the corporation had refrained from participating in acreage reduction programs it would have realized $886,254.18 "from these lands taken out of production had those lands been planted."

He said the corporation actually "made no sacrifice" because "cooperation of both large and small producers was essential" in farm programs that restored "prosperity to the nation."

The corporation was chartered under Mississippi state laws in 1886, and Johnston said it had operated its present large holdings since 1911, providing "homes and employment for more than 1,000 families."

"We are willing," Johnston said, "to be excused from further participation there in, (in farm reduction programs) and to leave the burden incident to reduction of the existing surplus of cotton upon the shoulders of small producers, but in so doing we point out that in our judgment such a course would be grossly unfair to the small producers."

He said "credit lines extended tenants have been more than doubled, day wages have been doubled, and compensation of officers and employes increased 20 to 25 per cent.

Oscar Johnston's Reply

WASHINGTON, July 18. — A careful examination of the letter written by Oscar Johnston, president of the Delta & Pine Land Co., will show how effectively he answered the criticisms of Senator Vandenberg, who claimed large operators were receiving the bulk of agricultural benefits. It was an equally effective reply to Dr. Will Alexander, director of the Resettlement Administration, a subordinate in the Department of Agriculture, who charged that landowners wrote the agricultural bills for their own benefit while tenants went on relief.

While the facts are precisely as set forth by Mr. Johnston, few farmers are in position to substantiate the denial with concrete evidence as Mr. Johnston has done. Anyone may follow the example of the critics of the Department of Agriculture and make loose and weird charges which a portion of the public is likely to accept unless disproved. Farmers do not go to the trouble to keep sets of books and employ accountants for the purpose of answering prospective charges of irregularity. Their methods are simple but accurate and, with rare exceptions, mutually satisfactory to the parties concerned.

FORTUNATELY Senator Vandenberg made specific criticism of Mr. Johnston's operations, providing opportunity for a reply which he and others had not felt called upon to answer when the charges, such as Dr. Alexander's, were only part of a general smearing campaign.

Complying with the administration program of 1933, Mr. Johnston's company took 4,050 acres from cotton production, or 25 per cent of the total base acreage. For compliance he was paid $34,977. On a basis of production from the remaining acreage, there was a net loss to the company of $37,981.

IN 1934 THE COMPANY shifted 38 per cent of the normal cotton acreage to other crops, representing 6,232 acres. In return the company received $90,641.17 in benefit payments for compliance, instead of a gross return of $256.571.44, representing the difference between $14.54 an acre in payments and $41.17 from a possible yield.

In 1935, Mr. Johnston shifted 35 per cent of the base acreage, or 5,674 acres, from cotton, receiving payments from the government amounting to $103,349.74, or $18.21 per acre. In return for a rental of $11.99 per acre, the company sacrificed $43.76 per acre.

IN 1936 under the Soil Conservation Act, the company diverted 5,175 acres, or 30.63 per cent of the base acreage, receiving in benefit payments $67,794.66, or $13.15 per acre, in contrast with a return of $59.95, which the diverted acres would have yielded, or a net loss of $46.80 per acre on 5,175 acres.

Summing up the four-year operations under the government diversion plan, Mr. Johnston's records show the company received an aggregate of $363,002.57, as compared to $886,254.18, which would have been the company's rent share of annual production, which would have been realized from lands taken out of production if they have been planted in cotton.

FROM A BOOKKEEPING point of view Mr. Johnston's company suffered an actual net loss as a penalty for compliance during the past four years, the tidy sum of $523,251.61. Mr. Johnston realizes as an actual fact there was no such sacrifice. On the contrary, the result of compliance probably sent the price of cotton up to the point where the net return was far in excess of what the total income would have been if there had been no diversion.

Any cotton, wheat, corn, tobacco or rice farmer will testify to the accuracy of Mr. Johnston's claim that he is much better off as a result of compliance. Few, unfortunately, are able to produce figures to prove facts so well known and generally recognized in improved agricultural conditions.

THE REDEEMING QUALITY of the agricultural acts under which farmers have operated during the past four years, and are operating in the fifth, is there has been no discrimination between large and small operators. The same rule applies to the farmer with 1,000 acres as to the farmer with 100. Benefits are larger only in proportion to the larger number of diverted acres, and payments are on the identical basis.

Mr. Johnston observes in his letter that if it is felt the large operators are receiving excessive payments he, for one, would be delighted to withdraw from co-operation. But he warns that the burden would be carried by small producers, and the large producers would enjoy the benefits. In view of his clear explanation no one familiar with it will again look askance at large benefit payments. It is clear that without the cooperation of large producers no agricultural program could succeed.

Flour Is Obtained Through Dehydrating Sweet Potatoes

Special to The Commercial Appeal

LAUREL, Miss., Sept. 2.—Through a process of dehydrating sweet potatoes, a flour similar to wheat flour has been obtained by Dr. E. F. Hopkins, professor of plant physiology at Cornell University. Dr. Hopkins has spent the past year here in research work at the Laurel Starch Plant. He is associated with the Chemical Foundation, Inc., of New York.

The fluid extracted from the potatoes during the dehydration process can be used for making a delicious syrup or can be fermented into alcohol Dr. Hopkins states.

A practical method for preserving sweet potatoes for starch manufacture was the primary object of Dr. Hopkins' efforts. Under the dhydrating method, the dried sweet potatoes can be kept indefinitely, enabling the starch plant to operate throughout the year instead of only a few months during the potato season.

Explaining the method, Dr. Hopkins said the sweet potatoes, after being washed, are ground to a fine pulp which is immediately subjected to the dehydrating treatment. This has two effects, he said, first bleaching the pulp and causing a separation of the juice from the solid material. The juice is quickly removed by a powerful centrifugal machine and the solid part then further dried. In this condition it may be crumbled into meal much like corn meal, and further grinding produces the sweet potato flour.

Not only can the flour be used for making starch, but its food qualities are declared excellent. Mrs. J. C. Manville bakes cookies and other items from the flour which tasters were enthusiastic about.

Raises Prize Corp Of Sweet Potatoes

VAUGHN, Miss., —(ANP)— E. W. Williams, colored farmer of this County has the distinction of being champion grower of sweet potatoes. Both from the standpoint of size and poundage per vine, Williams 1937 crop is particularly outstanding. The returns from two average hills was 50 pounds or one pound less than a bushel. In these two hills several of the potatoes weighed eight, seven six and four pounds each. His record for this year is attested by leading white and colored farmers and business men of this city.

Agriculture - 1937
Improvement of

Missouri.

Lincoln, Mo. 'Ag' Prof. Rated Among West's Leading Dairy Men

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo., July 8 —(By Elizabeth Cobb for ANP)— A. L. Hammons, agricultural professor at Lincoln university, was selected as one of the leading dairy men of the Midwest and invited to lead a round table discussion on "Dairy Feeding and Management" at the Puriana Mills Experimental farms at Grays Summit, Mo. His expenses were paid by the company as were those of James Bailey, a student in animal husbandry.

Mr. Hammonds was selected because he took three cows and a bull and developed an 18 cow herd which in March, 1934, brought him first place in a contest conducted by the Department of Agriculture and which still retains a rating as a Class A Dairy. He is also classed among the leaders in swine production, having purchased two bred gilts at the American Royal Stock show in Kansas City in 1926 and by 1930 had produced a grand champion of the Royal and a show herd that met national competition in Sedalia in 19 and brought back to Lincoln ribbons on his first trip to the state fair.

At the Puriana farm there was no discrimination, with all entering the various discussions and dining together, Mr. Hammond said.

National Farm Chemurgic Council.

Agriculture - 1937
6 Improvement of

CHEMURGIC COUNCIL PICKS EDITOR AS HEAD

Wheeler McMillen Succeeds Late Francis P. Garvan

NEW YORK, Dec. 25. —(AP) — Election of Wheeler McMillen, editorial director of Country Home Magazine and widely known agricultural authority, as president of the National Farm Chemurgic Council was announced today. He succeeds the late Francis P. Garvan.

Williard H. Dow, president of the Dow Chemical Company, Midland, Mich., was elected a vice president to succeed the late Howard E. Coffin.

In a statement folowing his election, McMillen said:

"The sole objective of the National Farm Chemurgic Council is to enlarge the income of farmers. Agriculture's sale of food products are limited by the capacity of human stomachs to a point far below farming's capacity for production. The chemurgic assignment is to open as large a possible a market, through science and industry, for the sale of farm grown materials to be manufactured into inedible products.

"We believe this is an absolutely sound approach to substantial increase in national prosperity. The fundamental consideration, however, is larger farm income. Since the farm is the primary source of America's new raw material wealth a growing volume of tangible materials thus moved into the channels of manufacture and commerce will stimulate employment."

North Carolina

Agriculture — 1937

6 Improvement of.

Kinston, N. C., Free Press
January 23, 1937

NEGRO CORN GROWERS MADE FINE RECORDS

Object of Contest Is to Produce Good Grain at Low Costs.

An average yield of 48.5 bushels to the acre was produced by 710 North Carolina Negro farmers participating in a corn-growing contest last year.

The official results were announced by C. R. Hudson, who has charge of State College extension work with colored farmers. He also pointed out that the average corn yield for the entire State is around 18 bushels per acre.

The highest yields were: A. G. Thompson, Robeson County, 101.9 bushels; Edward Ballard, Northampton County, 100.2 bushels, James Boone, Pasquotank County, 96.3 bushels; J. M. Lee, Gates County, 91.2 bushels; J. B. Jones, Durham County, 90.9 bushels.

Eight growers secured yields of 80 to 90 bushels per acre, and 67 produced from 50 to 80 bushels to the acre, Hudson continued.

The object of the corn-growing contest conducted annually for Negro farmers by the State College extension service is to encourage the farmers to produce higher yields at a lower cost per bushel, he pointed out.

"Our State still buys large quantities of high-priced corn from other states," Hudson said, "and we are seeking to reduce this outflow of money by producing plenty of corn to supply our own needs.

"The average yield per acre over the United States in 1936 dropped to around 15 bushels per acre, and this means that farmers who have to purchase corn must pay a high price for it.

"The farmers in the contest who averaged 48.5 bushels per acre produced it at an average cost of 34 cents a bushel."

Tarboro, N. C. Southerner
February 4, 1937

NEGRO COUNCIL HOLDS MEETING

25 Men And 12 Women Gather To Complete Plans For Extension Program

By F. D. WHARTON
Negro County Agent

Twenty-five men and twelve women, members of the Negro Farmers' County Farm Council, met Monday afternoon in the chapel of the Tarboro Negro High school to complete planning the 1937 agricultural extension program for Negro farm men and women.

Women planned work in clothing, working over old clothes, cutting and fitting new clothes, home beautification and improvement, painting up old furniture, making furniture out of orange crates and general room improvement. Minimum objective, one improved room in each organized community.

Men planned various improvement demonstrations in corn, cotton, tobacco, orchards, gardens, peanuts, pastures, swine, poultry, forestry, farm buildings, soil conservation and control of insects and diseases. Minimum requirement, some part of this program to be conducted in each community touched by the county agent, according to the needs and ability of the community to conduct the demonstration.

Programs for health, education, recreation, entertainment, meetings, tours, camps, fairs and achievement days were planned for both men and women and for all 4-H club members.

The following officers were elected: Dr. G. W. Bullock, Rocky Mount, president; Mrs. Florence Barnes, Rocky Mount, Rt. 2, vice president; John R. Phillips, Bricks, secretary; Mrs. Mary Bullock, Rocky Mount, Rt. 2, assistant secretary; Wade Allen, Whitakers, Rt. 1, treasurer.

The council voted to hold four meetings a year. One in the fall for the purpose of assisting the agents in collecting records and reports and to make observation for the coming year. One during the winter for completing plans for the new year. Two meetings will be held between these for miscellaneous considerations, recreation and entertainment. In addition, the council is subject to meet for special purposes at the call of the president or Negro county agent.

Washington, N. C. News
March 24, 1937

Negro Farmer Finds Chicken Raising Profitable Venture

Winton, Mar . 19.— Eugene Ricks, colored, wanted a farm of his own.

But shortly after he moved his family onto the place, he began to fail in health. At that time his son was nit interested in farming, and Eugene was afraid he would have to give up his home and farm.

His family could raise food to eat, but he had no source of cash income, and payments had to be made on the loan.

Then he found that he could raise poultry without overtaxing his strength, and with the help of his farm agent, W. C. Davenport, of the State College Extension service, Ricks worked out a poultry-raising program.

The possibilities of making a success with poultry appealed to Ricks' son, and the two went into business together.

They built a brooder house, Davenport said, and bought 408 Barred Rock chicks. Good care was given the chicks, and 402 were raised. Only six died.

At the age of ten weeks, 390 of the birds were sold in Norfolk for 22 cents a pound, or $198 in all.

After deducting $38, the purchase price of the young chicks and $55 for feed cost, Ricks figured a profit of $105.

Sharecropper Is Given First Security Farm

Project Now Under Development At Goldsboro, N. C.

GOLDSBORO, N. C.—To George Smith, 50-year-old share-cropper of near Smithfield, Johnston County, North Carolina, goes the honor and opportunity of being the first farmer of his race to get a home whome in the North Carolina Farm Tenant Security Project of the Resettlement Administration, U. S. Department of Agriculture.

The project is now under development, with headquarters in Goldsboro, and when completed will provide modern, comfortable homes for 100 selected white and Negro tenant families.

CONSTRUCTION STARTED

Actual construction was started about ten days ago on the first four farm units, of which the unit assigned to George Smith was one. At present, more than a dozen farmsteads included in the project are under construction, and the work will be pushed to completion as rapidly as supplies and labor can be obtained, according to C. O. Dickey, acting project manager, whose offices are in the Borden Building, Goldsboro.

Smith is described by the project manager as a capable type of tenant farmer who formerly owned his own place but lost it during the last depression. He has a wife and eleven children, ranging from infancy to 19 years old, and his equipment, livestock and household goods are well above the average of renters and sharecroppers in the cotton and tobacco sections.

HAS GOOD RECORD

"He has a good record and with the proper help and planning, should be able to meet all requirements for acquiring ownership of the farm on which he has been placed," the project manager stated.

The North Carolina Farm Tenant Security project includes about seventy-eight tracts of land in Johnston, Wayne, Harnett and Sampson counties, North Carolina, which are being divided into 100 farmsteads. In many cases farms have been bought by the Resettlement Administration for accepted tenants where they were already located and they will thus come into the project without moving. All repairable buildings will be repaired and reconditioned and equipped with modern features. Some good buildings will be remodeled. In other cases, present structures will be torn down and new dwellings and barns put up.

In all the houses bathroom space will be provided. Where electric current is also available, bathroom fixtures will be installed immediately to thoroughly modernize the homes. Where current is not available, the bathroom space will be reserved for further modernization at a later date. In all of the dwellings, sinks will be provided in the kitchens with running water at the sink, an inexpensive feature which will save many steps for the housewives.

GIVEN YEAR LEASE

Like all tenants accepted on the project, George Smith has been given a one-year lease with the understanding that he is to have a five-year trial period in which to prove his ownership ability. When he has qualified for ownership, he will be given a chance to buy the place on terms within his reach, and in accordance with the production capacity of the land. In addition to being provided with a modernized home, he will also have an operating goods loan with which to get started and will have the assistance of a trained farm management man in drawing up his farm plan and budgeting the loan.

A trained home economist will assist his wife in improving her household work and the family food supply.

Every effort is being made to give each tenant a chance to find a better living for himself and family and to help him take the important upward step to ownership.

Greensboro, N. C., News
April 19, 1937

FUTURE OF FARMING IN SOUTH PROMISING

John W. Mitchell Is Vesper Speaker At Teachers College, Winston-Salem.

PRAISES 4-H CLUB WORK

"The Economic and Social Future of Negroes in Rural North Carolina" was the subject of an address made Sunday by John W. Mitchell, negro district agent of the extension department, A. and T. college, at a vesper meeting at Teachers college, in Winston-Salem.

The speaker gave a detailed discussion of farm problems facing the negro in the south but explained that he was not trying to convert any of his listeners into agriculture. He selected the subject with the belief that they would be interested in obtaining the viewpoint of one who is constantly in contact with rural people, he said, and promised to give it without exaggeration, painting or coloring.

Asserting that the outlook for southern agriculture is very promising, he explained that the opening of textile and tobacco industries has added millions to the wealth of the south. In 1936 over $12,000,000 was awarded North Carolina farmers through government agencies, he added.

He praised the work accomplished by negro 4-H club members in the state, pointing out that 10,099 negro farm boys and girls working under supervision of negro farm and home demonstration agents last year conducted 13,284 projects which had an estimated market value of $200,807.75.

Goldsboro, N. C., News-Argus
April 28, 1937

Negro Farmers Establish Good Corn Records

Yields of 70 to 100 bushels to the acre are often produced in the annual corn-growing contests for Negro farmers of North Carolina.

The average corn yield for all farmers in the State last year was about 18 bushels to the acre.

C. R. Hudson, of State College, today revealed some of the practices recommended for Negroes in the corn-growing contests:

Use from 300 to 400 pounds of a good, complete fertilizer per acre, either a 3-8-3 or a 4-10-4 mixture. Apply half of it when the corn is planted and the other half when the plants are a foot high.

Plant enough seed to get a good stand; better have to thin the stand later than to replant it.

Start cultivating the crop early, even before the corn comes up, using a weeder or light harrow then and while the corn is small. Use a shallow running cultivator after the corn is a foot high. Cultivate shallow until the corn is ready to tassel.

If the corn is pale and does not appear to be growing vigorously, give it 100 to 200 pounds of nitrate of soda per acre when the plants are about two feet high.

Be sure to plant a legume crop such as peas or beans either between the corn hills, or in the middles between the rows, or sown broadcast at the time of the last cultivation. If planted after the corn is growing well, a legume crop will not reduce the corn yield but will produce an additional crop of much value.

Don't strip the corn leaves for for fodder. This is expensive work and reduces the yield of grain.

Rocky Mount, N. C., Telegram
April 26, 1937

Negro Farmers Learning Value Of Cooperation

Winton, April 26 — Negro farmers of Hertford County are learning the value of cooperation in their farm enterprises, according to W. C. Davenport, local agent of the State College Extension Service.

As an example, he said, two growers of the Maney's Neck section, U. S. Hargrove and Della Britt, purchased a corn planter together as their cooperative project. Each man paid $12.50 as his share.

Living close together, the two growers have ready access to the planter. Now, Davenport declared, they do not have to wait to borrow their neighbors' equipment at planting time.

Other such cooperative enterprises are being carried on in the county by colored farmers, the agent said.

Gastonia, N. C. Gazette
April 26, 1937

NEGRO FARMERS ARE LEARNING TO CO-OPERATE

WINTON, April 26.—Negro farmers of Hertford county are learning the value of co-operation in their farm enterprises, according to W. C. Davenport, local agent of the State College Extension Service.

As an example, he said, two growers of the Maney's Neck section, U. S. Hargrove and Della Britt, purchased a corn planter together as their co-operative project. Each man paid $12.50 as his share.

Living close together, the two growers have ready access to the planter. Now, Davenport declared, they do not have to wait to borrow their neighbor's equipment at planting time.

Other such co-operative enterprises are being carried on in the county by colored farmers, the agent said.

Rocky Mount, N. C., Telegram
May 10, 1937

NEGRO QUICK TO ADOPT NEW IDEAS

Negro Farmers Not Lagging Behind White Contemporaries in Farming

College Station, Raleigh, May 10 — Negro farmers are not lagging behind their white friends in adopting new agricultural practices in North Carolina this year despite the disparity in the economic situation of the two groups.

From Robeson County comes a report that the Negro citizens are cooperating in the hog sales being held at Fairmont and one colored farmer, R. Bradshaw, sold 20 hogs on the last shipping date for $420 in cash. His hogs were finished on home grown feeds.

"A large number of my people are now raising hogs for fall shipment," says S. T. Brooks, Robeson Negro farm agent.

L. J. Morris, Negro agent in Northampton County, reports that colored farmers there are rapidly turning to poultry production. Guise Grant, who purchased 100 baby chicks for the first time this past January, sold 97 birds recently at an average weight of 2 1-2 pounds for $60, and, after figuring every expense for feed, labor, heat and the original cost of the chickens, he cleared net $17.07.

In Anson County, says Otis Buffaloe, Negro agent, his cooperating farmers not only are buying pure bred certified cotton and cornseed for planting this spring but are treating the seed for disease control before planting.

"We have had much rain this season," Buffalo says, "and surface borne diseases of seed multiply much more rapidly under such conditions. We feel therefore that our farmers are wise to treat their seed and we have given many field demonstrations showing how this is done."

Two pure bred Jersey bull associations have been organized in Hertford County by W. C. Davenport, local Negro agent, and he reports that in addition to the two bulls purchased, the colored farmers also are buying registered cows with which to replace the scrubs now on the farms.

Washington, N. C. News
May 5, 1937

Negro Farmers Find New Farm Income

Raleigh, May 5.—Negro farmers of Halifax county are finding that there are other sources of farm income in addition to that regularly secured from cotton, tobacco, peanuts and other crops.

"Mack Faulcon of Littleton, route 2, is planning to raise fish for himself and his neighbors," says D. J. Knight, local negro agent of the State College Extension Service. "Faulcon has improved the dam on his farm and has made an ideal place to produce fish and frogs. Recently he ordered 300 fish from the State 1,000 native fish taken from nearby streams and ponds."

Knight says Mrs. L. H. Davis has built self-feeders for both poultry and hogs on her farm and has found that these give her more time for the other work about the place. In addition, the hogs and chickens make faster and more profitable growth.

Jake Adams of the Everett community added 24 peach trees and six apple trees to his home orchard durng the past winter looking to the production of a home supply of fruit.

Rocky Mount, N. C., Telegram
May 3, 1937

GOUD GARDENS' IS NEW SLOGAN

Negro Farm Families To Enter Summer Garden Contest, Much Interest Shown

"Good gardens for pleasure, health, and wealth" is the slogan of North Carolina Negro farm families entering the summer garden contest for Negroes.

Much interest is being shown in the contest, said C. R. Hudson, of State college, who is in charge of agricultural extension work with Negroes, and it is being held in all 28 counties where there are colored farm and home demonstration agents.

Cash awards will be given the county and state winners, he added. The gardens will be scored according to their preparation, fertilization, spacing of plants, variety of vegetables, and quality.

The purpose of the contest is to stimulate the production of fresh vegetables in the home garden to provide the family a more balanced, healthful diet and to save the expense of buying these foods, Hudson pointed out.

The contest will close on August 1, at which time the fall and winter garden contest will start. "We want colored farm families to have year-round gardens," he continued.

He also announced the organization of a Negro garden club in Moore county, with 40 boys and girls and 25 adults as charter members. A large number of others are expected to join soon, Hudson stated.

North Carolina

Agriculture-1937
6 Improvement of

Rocky Mount, N. C., Weekly News
May 14, 1937

NEGRO QUICK TO ADOPT NEW IDEAS

Negro Farmers Not Lagging Behind White Contemporaries in Farming

College Station, Raleigh, May 10—Negro farmers are not lagging behind their white friends in adopting new agricultural practices in North Carolina this year despite the disparity in the economic situation of the two groups.

From Robeson County comes a report that the Negro citizens are cooperating in the hog sales being held at Fairmont and one colored farmer, R. Bradshaw, sold 20 hogs on the last shipping date for $420 in cash. His hogs were finished on home grown feeds.

"A large number of my people are now raising hogs for fall shipment," says S. T. Brooks, Robeson Negro farm agent.

L. J. Morris. Negro agent in Northampton County, reports that colored farmers there are rapidly turning to poultry production. Guise Grant, who purhcased 100 baby chicks for the first time this past January, sold 97 birds recently at an average weight of 2 1-2 pounds for $60, and, after figuring every expense for feed, labor, heat and the original cost of the chickens, he cleared net $17.07.

In Anson County, says Otis Buffaloe, Negro agent, his cooperating farmers not only are buying pure bred certified cotton and cornseed for planting this spring but are treating the seed for disease control before planting.

"We have had much rain this season,' Buffalo says, "and surface borne diseases of seed multiply much more rapidly under such conditions. We feel therefore that our farmers are wise to treat their seed and we have given many field demonstrations showing how this is done."

Two pure bred Jersey bull associations have been organized in Hertford County by W. C. Davenport, local Negro agent, and he reports that in addition to the two bulls purchased, the colored farmers also are buying registered cows with which to replace the scrubs now on the farms.

Washington, N. C., Progress
May 13, 1937

Negro Farmers Are Not Lagging In Adoption Methods

Raleigh, May 8.—Negro farmers are not lagging behind their white friends in adopting new agricultural practices in North Carolina this year despite the disparity in the economic situation of the two groups.

From Robeson county comes a report that the Negro citizens are cooperating in the hog sales being held at Fairmont and one colored farmer, R. Bradshaw, sold 20 hogs on the last shipping date for $420 in cash. His hogs were finished on home grown feeds.

"A large number of my people are now raising hogs for fall shipment," says S. T. Brooks, Robeson Negro farm agent.

L. J. Morris, Negro agent in Northampton county, reports that colored farmers there are rapidly turning to poultry production. Guise Grant, who purhcased 100 baby chicks for the first time this past January, sold 97 birds recently at an average weight of 2½ pounds for $60; and, after figuring every expense for feed, labor, heat and the original cost of the chickens, he cleared net $17.07.

In Anson county, says Otis Buffaloe Negro agent, his cooperating farmers not only are buying pure bred certified cotton and corn seed for planting this spring but are treating the seed for disease control before planting.

Two pure bred Jersey bull asso-season," Buffaloe says, and surface borne diseases of seed multiply much more rapidly under such conditions. We feel therefore that our farmers are wise to treat their seed and we have given many field demonstrations showing how this is done."

Two pure bred eJrsey bull associations have been organized in Hertford county by W. C. Davenport, local Negro agent, and he reports that in addition to the two bulls purchased, the colored farmers also are buying registered cows with which to replace the scrubs now on the farms.

Mooresville, N. C. Enterprise
May 13, 1937

Hertford Negro Farmers Buy Blooded Jerseys : :

Pure bred livestock are cheaper than scrubs, believe negro farmers of Hertford county, who have been feeding high priced grain and roughage into scrubs all these years without getting back an adequate return.

So they have gone in for pure bred Jersey cattle. Two bull associations have been organized in recent weeks with one located in the Mills Neck community, near Harrelsville. Charlie Lassiter is president and the bull will be kept on the farm of F. J. Lane. Twelve men have an interest in the animal and money was raised for his purchase when the members of the association advanced a small sum each for the purchase.

The second association is located in the Vaughtown community where the same arrangements were completed. W. A. Eason is president of this Association and J. W. Majette will keep the animal.

Both of these herd sires are pure bred registered Jerseys and will be of tremendous value in the two communities, says W. C. Davenport, local negro farm agent of the State College Extension Service. Davenport says the Associations will permit the two animals to be used in herds of non-members but will charge a standard fee for such service.

As a result of this interest in blooded dairy cattle, Davenport reports that other negro farmers are buying pure bred Jersey cows to begin small herds for family supplies of milk and butter.

"The farmers tell me they are tired of feeding scrubs and getting practically nothing in return," Davenport commented.

Burlington, N. C., Times-News
May 21, 1937

NEGRO CURB MARKET TO OPEN HERE ABOUT JUNE 5, SCHOOL GROVE

A curb market for the exclusive use of the negro race will open here probably June 5 on the Alamance Training School grove, with twelve to fifteen producers offering home grown products.

Only those sellers who grow their own produce will be permitted to use the market. At the outset the market will open only on Saturdays and will continue through the summer months. Later, it is planned to broaden the work, going into a rented building for operation on a permanent basis.

The program is sponsored by the negro county farm and home demonstration agents.

Wilmington, N. C. Morning Star
September 11, 1937

NEGRO FARMERS HOLD FIELD DAY

Two Thousand Participate in Annual Event at Willard Test Station

WILLARD, Sept. 10. — Negro farmers of southeastern North Carolina, 2,000, strong gathered here for the annual negro field day at the Coastal Plain state experiment station.

S. C. Anderson presided over the all-day program.

Hugh MacRae, Wilmington agriculturist, spoke on interracial relations and urged the negro farmers of this section to follow the leadership in agriculture provided them by the departments of agriculture and to keep in step with the progress made in the field of agricultural science. Negro farmers in this section are particularly fortunate, he said, due to the fertile soil and excellent climate which the section affords.

Principal negro speaker of the day was Calvin Brock, of Mount Olive, recognized as one of the most progressive negro farmers of the state. Brock spoke on "How to Succeed as a Market Gardener."

This afternoon a woman's program was presented with a demonstration of color, line and design of clothing as the feature. Field trips were made by the farmers and contests were held.

Elkin, N. C. Tribune
October 28, 1937

Both Have the Same Problems

Negro farmers in the eastern part of the State have their own farm agents, and the records show that they are following the counsel and advice of these men who are able to help them chart their course to higher ground, agriculturally. The same cannot always be said of the white farmers in every section of North Carolina.

O. H. Evans, Negro farm agent for Craven county, offers argument and figures that could as well be applied by white farmers in other sections of the State. The average scrub cow in Craven county, he says, eats $4 worth of good legumes and dairy feed per week and produces only $3 worth of milk and butter. But a fairly good cow giving three gallons of milk a day and four pounds of butter a week, eating the same amount of feed will net her owner a profit of $25 a month.

But he thinks the more important way to look at it is to consider the value of milk and butter to the family, especially the growing boys and girls. A scrub cow will not give enough milk to supply even a small family with the milk and butter it needs, but a good cow will do the job well and give the youngsters a chance to grow into fine, sturdy men and women—and at the same cost of feeding and maintenance. Two cows will provide milk and butter for an average family and a small surplus to sell, which means that the family will have a small additional source of income.

Those are facts that no farm family can afford to ignore, whether the farmer happens to be white or black. And it is encouraging to note that the State is making progress in definitely fixing these advantages in the minds of members of both races. However, it is found necessary to approach this objective through the 4-H club boys and girls, presumably because they are more responsive to good suggestions than their elders who are set in their ways and more inclined to follow in the tracks of their daddies. These youngsters of today are to be the farmers of tomorrow, and if they can be made to see the advantages of a new approach to farm problems, the State will be the winner in the end.

Durham, N. C. Sun
November 5, 1937

NEGRO FARMERS LEARN DIVERSIFICATION VALUE

WINTON, Nov. 5.—Co-operative hog shipments and boll weevils are teamed up in weaning Hertford county Negro farmers away from too much cotton.

Negroes who have stuck by their cotton through thick and thin for years are at last being convinced that cotton alone, "is a pretty sorry crop," said W. C. Davenport, Negro farm agent of the State college extension service.

The boll weevils damaged the cotton pretty bad this year, he said, and few of the farmers are getting enough to pay the cost of producing the crop.

This in itself, Davenport pointed out, will tend to turn them away from cotton as a source of cash income.

And the new hog market at Cofield has attracted the attention of local Negro farmers, who see in hog production a way to earn a cash income from sources other than cotton.

Many of them have been busy fattening hogs for cooperative selling at Cofield, and others are making plans to grow more hogs next year.

Farmers who are trying out hogs this year are finding that they may make more off their hogs than they will off their cotton, Davenport continued.

Davenport said he also finds a growing interest in diversification of crops and producing at home the food and feed that will be needed.

Tarboro, N. C. Southerner
November 16, 1937.

Farmers

Negro Farmers Are Planting More Winter Cover Crops Than Ever Before.

Edgecombe county negro farmers have sown more winter cover crops this fall than ever before, said F. D. Wharton, colored farm agent of the State College extension service.

Many of the negro farmers have been convinced, he said, that the future of agriculture depends largely on conserving and building up a fertile soil.

They realize that the low crop yields and poverty on worn out farms are the direct result of bad cropping systems that exhaust the soil's fertility and expose the land to erosion.

This fall, even though much of their other work has been delayed, Wharton continued, they have made a special effort to sow cover crops to protect their fields through the winter.

Agriculture-1937
To Improvement of

North Carolina

Burlington, N. C., Times-News
June 5, 1937

NEGRO MARKET IS OPENED TODAY WITH MUCH INTEREST SHOWN

The newly-established curb market for negro farmers opened this morning for business with considerable interest shown both by the farmers and the buying public

The new project is in charge of J. W. Jeffries, and Mrs. C. S. Wilson, negro farm and home agents for the county, and B. A. Hall, instructor in agriculture at the Burlington negro high school.

The lawn of the colored school is being used for the project, which seems definitely out of the experimental stage with the interest shown during the first day's business. Eleven farmers brought produce today and it is expected that a larger number, with a greater variety of vegetables and fruit will in attendance next week.

Henderson, N. C. Dispatch
June 1, 1937

CREDIT UNION FOR NEGROES PLANNED

Other Activities for Year Also Discussed At Board Meeting

A credit union for Negroes in Vance county is planned by the Negro Agricultural Advisory Board which also has other projects in hand for the advancement and promotion of the agricultural life of the Negroes of the county, it was announced today following a meeting of the board Monday afternoon. It was the monthly meeting of the group.

A county credit union with headquarters in Henderson is to be established, although full details were not learned. It was also planned to hold a farmers' county picnic at Kittrell College on Wednesday, July 21. On November 11, which is Thursday, it is proposed to hold a county achievement day. Arrangements were made also to send a large delegation of farmers to the State Farmers' Conference in Wilson July 15-16.

Tours of test farms were planned for July 23 at the Iredell test farm at Statesville; the Oxford tobacco station July 30, the Edgecombe test farm near Rocky Mount on August 13, and the Willard farm September 10.

H. E. Webb, Negro farm agent, today announced plans for the program for the Negro rural workers of the county.

Durham, N. C., Morning Herald
June 3, 1937

Credit Union For Negroes Is Planned

Advisory Board In Vance County Maps Program—Meetings Planned

Henderson, June 2.—(Special)—A credit union for Negroes in Vance county is planned by the Negro agricultural advisory board, which also has other projects in hand for the advancement and promotion of the agricultural life of the Negroes of the county, it was announced today following a meeting of the obard Monday afternoon. It was the monthly meeting of the group.

A county credit union with headquarters in Henderson is to be established, although full detatils were not learned. It was also planned to hold a farmers' county picnic at Kittrell college on Wednesday, July 21. On November 11, which is Thursday, it is proposed to hold a county achievement day. Arrangements were made also to send a large delegation of farmers to the state farmers' conference in Wilson July 15-16.

Tours of test farms were planned for July 23 at the Iredell test farm at Statesville, the Oxford tobacco station July 30, the Edgecombe test farm near Rocky Mount on August 13, and the Willard farm September 10.

H. E. Webb, Negro farm agent, today announced plans for the program for the Negro rural workers of the county.

Wilmington, N. C. News
June 28, 1937

A SCHOOL FOR TENANTS

At Fountain Inn, S. C., the principal of the local negro school has a plan for improving conditions for tenants which many communities might well try. We quote from an article in The Progressive Farmer:

"While the nation discusses seriously the tenant situation, negro tenants around Fountain Inn, S. C., quietly go about improving their own living conditions.

"Credit for this achievement is largely due to G. A. Anderson, principal of the local negro school. Here is the doctrine he preaches

"One great fault prevalent among negro tenants is that they wait for the landowner to drive every nail and mend every leak about the premises. The tenant should ask for materials and do the work himself. It is a shame to sit down and let things go to pieces waiting for the farm owner to repair them for you. Tenants ought to get it in their heads that they can really live if they will take pride in their homes and farms. The tenant can even keep from living in a leaky house if he will get tin and nails from his landlord and go to work.

"With this in mind he and the negro teacher of vocational agriculture arranged a school for tenants. The white teachers of vocational agriculture gave much helpful advice and some funds were secured from the general education board.

"One day was spent in learning how to put a tin roof on a house. The class spent one profitable day at Clemson College seeing the barns, dairies and poultry farms, and learning best methods of caring for purebred stock. The class learned how to make homemade feeders and trap nests and were much interested in making these simple but useful articles. They learned how to compute the selling price of cotton by simple short methods in fractions, and how to budget their earnings. The tenants' wives and daughters received instruction in better home making—how to feed their families something other than the fatback and sorghum diet. once the regulation negro menu, how to make homes attractive, correct ways to serve meals, and how to set the table.

"A fine spirit of harmony between the two races has always existed in our South Carolina piedmont section. No race riots and few heinous crimes can be traced to the negroes here. Good schools are provided for the negro children. Two years ago when a teacherage was needed for the local negro teachers, th white men, merhants and farmers of the community, gave timber, nails and other materials and the negroes gave their labor."

Greensboro, N. C., News
July 6, 1937

Negro Vocational Agriculture Teachers Conclude Short Course With Farm Tour

Farming at its best in this area was studied by a group of negro vocational agriculture teachers during a tour of 11 Guilford county farms which climaxed the annual short course at A. and T. college for the vocational teachers.

Since the course was devoted to conservation, members of the federal government's soil conservation project in the Reedy Fork and Deep river areas co-operated with college officials in the short course. T. C. Maurer, Reedy Fork project manager; T. S. Buie, regional director, and J. R. Herman, assistant agronomist, of the soil conservation service, took part in the tour.

First stop was at the S. E. Coble farm, Guilford College, where a steep irregular sloping field, seeded in the spring of 1936 for permanent pasture, was studied. Strip cropping was next studied at the J. W. Lindley farm, where a two-year rotation system for alfalfa, corn, grain and vetch and soybeans was observed.

At Mrs. U. V. Siler's farm contour stripping on a three-year rotation was observed. On the S. E. Coble and C. R. Barber farms reclamation of wasteland was viewed. On these farms, among other things, locust seedlings have been planted in rows for cultivation for fence posts.

Broad contour stripping and wildlife development on gullied and galled lands were observed on the Edward Hughes and Guilford Jessup farms.

A complete program for the average-sized farm was studied at the C. C. Huff farm, where terracing, stripping, rotation, pasture seeding and other approved practices were observed.

Single terrace outlets into roadway ditch were viewed at the Mrs. Hazel Sizemore farm, while meadow-stripping to care for terrace outfalls was observed on the William Fitzgerald place. This same practice was further observed on the T. M. Blaylock farm, where it is used to carry off water from a 60-acre field.

One of the worst concentrated gully areas in the state was viewed on the C. L. Orrell place. Here erosion control practices by the forestry, wildlife and agronomy departments were studied.

Soil conservation men demonstrated how to construct a broad base mangum terrace on the Bob Edwards farm. This concluded the tour.

Statesville, N. C., Record
July 16, 1937

ANNUAL FIELD DAY FOR NEGRO FARMERS

Special Program Arranged For Women And Girls

The annual field day at the Iredell Test Farm, for colored people, will take place on July 23rd, beginning at 10 o'clock. Those in charge of the program are anxious to make this the biggest and best field day yet held. A large number of farmers from the counties of the piedmont section of the State are expected to attend the meeting. A special program is being arranged for the women and girls and they should not miss taking advantage of it.

All should bring a lunch and come prepared to spend the day.

Statesville, N. C. Daily
July 23, 1937

COLORED FARMERS SHOW SERIOUS ATTITUDE AT THEIR ANNUAL FIELD DAY

The annual field day for the colored farmers of this section of the state opened this morning at 10 o'clock at Piedmont Experiment Station, two miles west of Statesville, with between 300 and 500 colored farmers and farm women from all over the Piedmont area in attendance.

An interesting program was given on the lawn this morning, and this afternoon was given over to field trips over the experiment station for men and a special session at the same time for the women.

At the meeting today of the negro farmers and farm women of Piedmont North Carolina, the same serious attitude and deep interest in improved agricultural methods was manifested as was shown in the meeting the day before by the white farmers of this portion of the state

Pitt County Farmer Owns 1,487 Acres, Employs 30 Tenants, Plants 527 Acres

Joe Daniels Inspires North Carolina Farmers At Wilson Meeting

Staff Correspondence

WILSON, N. C.—As a inspirational feature of North Carolina Negro Farmers' Institute, held in Wilson, N. C., recently, Joe Daniels widely known Pitt County farmer was asked to tell his story before the 600 farmers present at the institute. And the story that Joe Daniels told was inspiring and it gave to every farmer who heard it hope and faith in the possibilities of agriculture.

First of all, Mr. Daniels owns 1,487 acres of choice, fertile, Pitt County farm land which is some accomplishment indeed. On this extensive farm land, he employs 30 tenant farmers and houses and feeds their families, which have numbered as high as 300 people.

Of the 1,487 acres of land he owns, 527 acres are cleared and 10 per cent, 52 acres are planted in food, including everything which these people need to eat.

This successful farmer considers tobacco his most important crop, because of the fact that he lives in that section very close to the big tobacco markets in Greenville, Wilson, and Rocky Mount.

A large part of his farm is devoted to raising this important money crop yearly and it is from tobacco that Dr. Daniels expects to make his greatest profit for his year's work.

In marketing his tobacco, Mr. Daniels said he does business with whatever warehouses give him the best consideration.

For one piece of farm property, Mr. Daniels paid $9,500 and three years later he sold the same property for $15,000, making a profit of $5,500.

Mr. Daniels is 67 years old and has been farming all of his life. He has owned his own farm for more than 37 years. He has two sons and two daughters all of these are farmers. One of his daughters is married and lives on a farm of her own not far from her father's place.

JOE DANIELS

Mr. Daniels is still active and supervises the work on his farm. He is assisted by his wife, Mrs. Louisa Daniels; his sons, Herbert and Adam Daniels; and his daughters, Mrs. Martha Daniels Whichard and Mrs. Joanna Daniels Staton.

Highly respected among farmers in Eastern North Carolina, Mr. Daniels is reputed to have been very wealthy.

He is a leader in progressive farm programs in the state and he attends as many farm meetings as is possible. He was elected vice president of the Farmer's Institute at the Wilson meeting and was named to one of the important committees.

Mr. Daniels believes that the colored farmer has a splendid chance for success if he is careful to keep up with progress in agriculture and if he conducts his farm in a business-like manner. However, Mr. Daniels insists that hard work is really the most important requisite for success in farming as in any other field of endeavor.

Agriculture-1937
16 Improvement of.

South Carolina.

Wetumpka, Ala., Herald
July 8, 1937

A SCHOOL FOR TENANTS

At Fountain Inn, S. C., the principal of the local Negro school has a plan for improving conditions for tenants which many communities might well try. We quote from an article in The Progressive Farmer:—

"While the nation discusses seriously the tenant situation, Negro tenants around Fountain Inn., S. C., quietly go about improving their own living conditions.

"Credit for this achievement is largely due to G. A. Anderson, principal of the local Negro school. Here is the doctrine he preaches:—

"One great fault prevalent among Negro tenants is that they wait for the landowner to drive every nail and mend every leak about the premises. The tenant should ask for materials and do the work himself. It is a shame to sit down and let things go to pieces waiting for the farm owner to repair them for you. Tenants ought to get it in their heads that they can really LIVE if they will take pride in their homes and farms. The tenant can even keep from living in a leaky house if he will get tin and nails from his landlord and go to work.

"With this in mind he and the Negro teacher of vocational agriculture arranged a school for tenants. The white teachers of vocational agriculture gave much helpful advice and some funds were secured from the General Education Board.

"One day was spent in learning how to put a tin roof on a house. The class spent one profitable day at Clemson College seeing the barns, dairies, and poultry farms, and learning best methods of caring for purebred stock. The class learned how to make homemade feeders and trap nests and were much interested in making these simple but useful articles. They learned how to compute the selling price of cotton by simple short methods in fractions, and how to budget their earnings. The tenants' wives and daughters received instruction in better home-making—how to feed their families something other than the fatback and sorghum diet, once the regulation Negro menu, how to make homes attractive, correct ways to serve meals, and how to set the table.

"A fine spirit of harmony between the two races has always exsited in our South Carolina piedmont section. No race riots and few heinous crimes can be traced to the Negroes here. Good schools are provided for the Negro children. Two years ago when a teacherage was needed for the local Negro teachers, the white men, merchants and farmers of the community, gave timber, nails, and other materials and the Negroes gave their labor."

Goodwater, Ala., Eenterprise
July 2, 1937

A SCHOOL FOR TENANTS

At Fountain Inn, S. C., the principal of the local Negro school has a plan for improving conditions for tenants which many communities might well try. We quote from an article in The Progressive Farmer:—

"While the nation discusses seriously the tenant situation. Negro tenants around Fountain Inn, S. C., quietly go about improving their own living conditions.

"Credit for this achievement is largerly due to G. A. Anderson, principal of the local Negro school. Here is the doctine he preaches:—

"One great fault prevalent among Negro tenants is that they wait for the landowner to drive every nail and mend every leak about the premises. The tenant should ask for materials and do the work himself. It is a shame to sit down and let things go to pieces waiting for the farm owner to repair them for you. Tenants ought to get it in their heads that they can really live if they will take pride in their homes and farms. The tenant can even keep from living in a leaky house if he will get tin and nails from his landlord and go to work.

"With this in mind he and the Negro teacher of vocational agriculture arranged a school for tenants. The white teachers of vocational agriculture gave much helpful advice and some funds were secured from the General Education Board.

"One day was spent in learning how to put a tin roof on a house. The class spent one profitable day at Clemson College seeing the barns, dairies and poultry farms, and learning best methods of caring for purebred stock. The class learned how to make homemade feeders and trap nests and were much interested in making these simple but useful articles. They learned how to compute the selling price of cotton by simple short methods in fractions, and how to budget their earnings. The tenant's wives and daughters received instruction in better home-making — how to feed families something other than the fatback and soghum diet, once the regulation Negro menu, how to make home attractive, correct ways to serve meals, and how to set the table.

"A fine spirit of harmony between the two races has always existed in our South Carolina piedmont section No race riots and few heinous crimes can be traced to the Negroes here. Good schools are provided for the Negro children. Two years ago when a teacherage was needed for the local Negro teachers, the white men, merchants and farmers of the community, gave timber, nails and other materials and the Negroes gave their labor."

Farmville, Va. Herald
July 16, 1937

A School for Tenants

At Fountain Inn, S. C., the principal of the local Negro school has a plan for improving conditions for tenants which many communities might well try.

"While the nation discusses seriously the tenant situation, Negro tenants around Fountain Inn, S. C., quietly go about improving their own living conditions.

Credit for this achievement is largely due to G. A. Anderson, principal of the local Negro school.

Here is the doctrine he preaches:—

"One great fault prevalent among Negro tenants is that they wait for the landowner to drive every nail and mend every leak about the premises. The tenant should ask for materials and do the work himself. It is a shame to sit down and let things go to pieces waiting for the farm owner to repair them for you. Tenants ought to get it in their heads that they can really live if they will take pride in their homes and farms. The tenant can even keep from living in a leaky house if he will get tin and nails from his landlord and go to work."

With this in mind he and the Negro teacher of vocational agriculture arranged a school for tenants. The white teachers of vocational agriculture gave much helpful advice and some funds were secured from the General Education Board.

One day was spent in learning how to put a tin roof on a house. The class spent one profitable day at Clemson College seeing the barns, dairies, and poultry farms. and learning best methods of caring for purebred stock. The class learned how to make homemade feeders and trap nests and were much interested in making these simple but useful articles. They learned how to compute the selling price of cotton by simple short methods in fractions, and how to budget their earnings. The tenants' wives and daughters received instruction in better home-making—how to feed their families something other than the fatback and sorghum diet, once the regulation Negro menu, how to make homes attractive, correct ways to serve meals, and how to set the table.

A fine spirit of harmony between the two races has always existed in our South Carolina piedmont section. No race riots and few heinous crimes can be traced to the Negroes here. Good schools are provided for the Negro children. Two years ago when a teacherage was needed for the local Negro teachers, the white men, merchants and farmers of the community, gave timber, nails, and other materials and the Negroes gave their labor.

Elizabeth City, N. C., Advance
August 5 1937

Bertie Negroes Get Pure Jersey Boars

J. C. Hubbard Arranging Deal for Purchase from State Normal

Windsor, Aug. 5.—J. C. Hubbard, Bertie County Negro farm agent, is making plans to secure some pure bred Duroc Jersey boars from the State Normal School at Elizabeth City at a very reasonable price. Plans will be completed by Saturday.

In the meantime five or six Negro farmers and Agent Hubbard will take at least a half dozen hogs to Hampton Institute next Tuesday and trade them for pure bred Duroc Jersey boars.

This is being done to get better breeding hogs on the Negro farms of Bertie County. Although 15 or more Negro farmers are desirous of trading boars, Hampton Institute will be able to furnish only five or six now. A meeting is being called Saturday at 4 p. m. to make definite arrangements for the trip.

Agent Hubbard's report includes the successful camp near Ashland school held by the Negro 4-H boys of Bertie, it being the first camp held in Bertie for the Negro rural youths.

Agent Hubbard also announced today that all Negro farmers of Bertie and other eastern counties are invited to attend the upper coastal test farm meeting. The Bertie group will meet at the Windsor Negro High School and leave in a group at 8:30 a. m. next Friday.

Besides pigs, Agent Hubbard plans to secure some good cows from Alamance County through the Negro county agent there and have them delivered at the Atlantic District Fair Grounds at Ahoskie during the fair in October. Negro farmers who are interested are asked to consult Hubbard this month.

Agent Hubbard's son, Calvin, age 8 doesn't follow after the usual run of young boys who take delight in destroying wild life. The youngster discovered a nest of young birds, presumably catbirds, in a magnolia tree in his front yard. The boy is already planning to look after them and protect them from any marauding cats.

W. R. Johnson, consultant and field agent on Negro work and of the State board of charity and welfare at Raleigh visited Bertie last week.

Winston-Salem, N. C., Sentinel
August 5, 1937

NEGRO FARMER MAKES GOOD PROFITS

Oxford.—In connection with his general farm program, Henry Wilson, Granville county Negro farmer, has been making good money raising livestock for sale, said J. R. Redding, Negro farm agent of the State College extension service.

In May he sold a cow and a calf for $45 and in June he sold two calves for $14.40. During the spring he sold 15 pigs for $75, and he now has $75 worth of chickens ready for marketing this month, Redding reported.

With the exception of a small quantity of chick feed, all of the feed for the livestock was produced on the Wilson farm as a part of the regular farming operations.

Agriculture-1937
6
Improvement of

Tennessee.

Rust Brothers Announce New Cotton Picker

MEMPHIS, TENN., June 24.—(AP)—John Rust, co-inventor with his brother Mack of a mechanical cotton picker said today a new picker which will detach the cotton in half the time required by present machines will probably be demonstrated this Fall.

Rust returned to Memphis this week from the Argentine where he said the cotton picker had made a favorable impression on South American planters.

Of the new picker, Rust said it "will do away with the necessity of having to go over the same row twice in order to get all the cotton." He said it is "really" a double machine with one picking unit following the other in tandem fashion, cleaning the row in one operation.

Rust said his brother, Mack, would remain in Tashkent, Republic of Uzbeck, U. S. S. R., for the remainder of the year. He is demonstrating pickers there, including the first foreign-made Rust picker.

Advantages Of Co-operation

It is estimated that 4,000 Tennessee farmers profited on an average of two cents a pound through the co-operative efforts of the University Extension Service in promoting 11 wool sales throughout the state this season. The sales were held all the way from Union City to Bristol, and handled a total of 526,899 pounds of wool.

Not only has the co-operative system enabled Tennessee sheep farmers to realize more for their wool, but it has helped to build up the industry. There is not a farm in the state that could not support a flock of sheep. For many years there was the hazard of the sheep-killing dog, and that hazard is still present, but co-operation has helped here, too. Farmers in many sections have banded together to outlaw the dog and have been quite successful in their efforts.

This is the eighteenth year that wool pool sales have been held in Tennessee. Lamb pools have also been extensively held. These are two of the worth-while services that are being rendered by the university.

RUST COTTON-PICKERS TO BE SOLD OUTRIGHT

Brothers Abandon Leasing Plan —Two Rival Machines Now Being Developed

MEMPHIS, Tenn., Dec. 11 (Science Service).—The Rust brothers, idealistic Southerners who are almost ready to begin manufacture of their widely heralded cotton-picker, have dropped their original plan to lease the machines and will now sell them outright, it was learned here.

Two rival cotton-pickers are being developed, one by the Berry-Gamble-Maneur interests and the other by the International Harvester Company. With two competing pickers on the market, no leasing scheme would be workable.

Although larger profits can be made in the long run in many fields by leasing machinery rather than selling it outright, capital necessary for expansion in the early days of manufacture can be most quickly obtained by immediate sale.

Unusual interest has been attached to the development of a successful cotton-picker because its widespread use would directly result in profound disturbances to the labor market throughout the South. Cotton-picking is virtually entirely a hand operation, employing hundreds of thousands of men and women for forty days a year. Even though use of the machine may not mean permanent unemployment for the farm hands and share-croppers, it will mean a temporary displacement of uncomfortable dimensions.

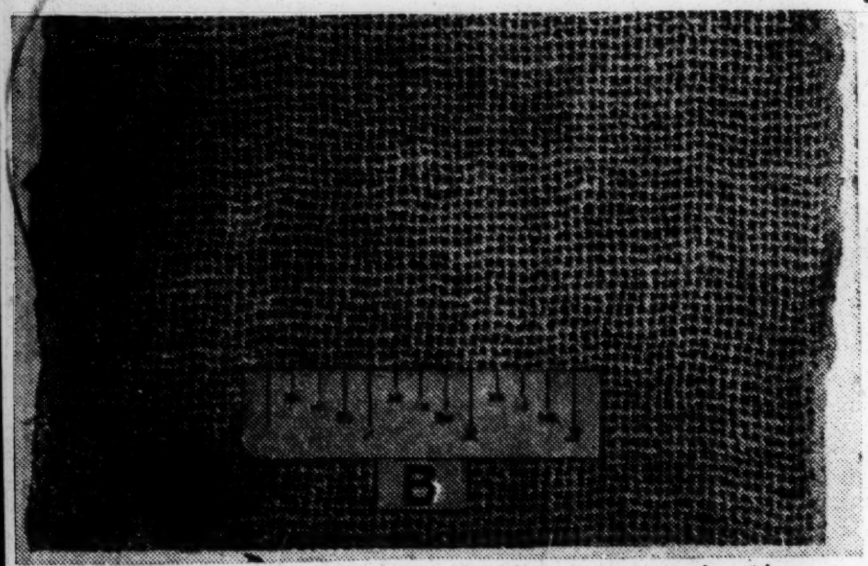
Realizing this, the Rust brothers, John D. and Mack D., at first proposed to limit its use in the United States so as to minimize its effects. They also turned the patents on their device over to the Rust Foundation, a non-profit corporation which will receive the lion's share of profits and will devote them toward educational and cooperative development purposes. That part of the plan, they declare, has not been changed.

Rust Brothers Get Cotton Picker Patent

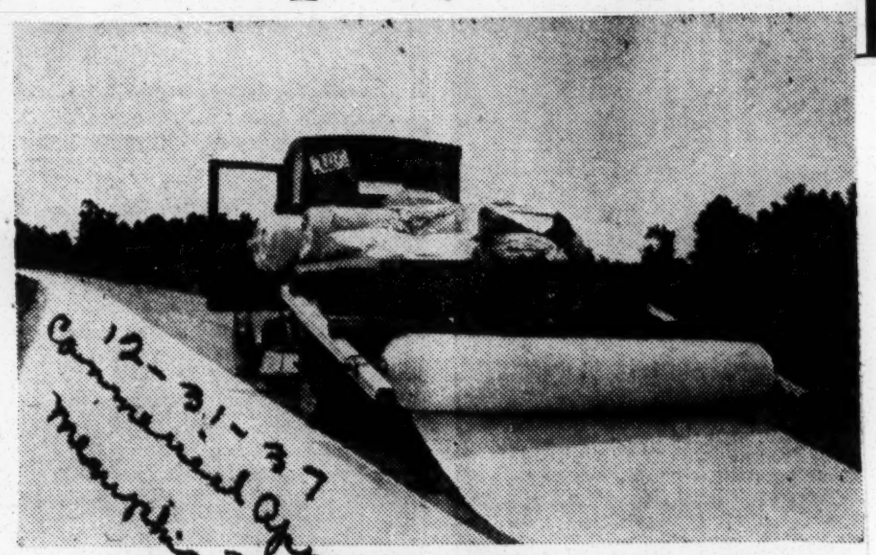
MEMPHIS, Tenn.—(ANP)—It is reliably reported that the U. S. patent office granted a patent Wednesday to Mack D. and John D. Rust, of this city, for new improvements on their much talked of mechanical cotton picker. The new machine can be pulled by an ordinary row-crop tractor and will have its power for driving the picking unit's mechanism from its own wheels instead of from a "power take-off" on the tractor, they explained.

This cotton picking machine has caused much concern among the human cotton pickers who have depended for many years on such means as a livelihood in the deep South, by not only the Negro element but the middle and poorer class whit folks. However, no doubt this revolutionary movement of the mechanical cotton picker may serve as a blessing in disguise for the same group of people who fear it so very much in its existence.

Pictures Tell the Story of Step By Step In the Building of a Road With Cotton Fabric



This is the stuff that is used in building cotton roads. Above is Type B fabric, nine threads per inch and weighing 4.25 ounces per square yard. Scale is shown in inches on above sample.



The cotton fabric is rolled out onto the road surface and then tacked along the edges to prevent displacement before it is covered. Such devices as this one lessen the time required.

After the fabric has been placed and tacked down smoothly, the hot bituminous material is applied by power-driven distributors. They cover the full width of fabric with one application.

Crushed stone, slag or gravel is used to cover the hot bituminous material. Then cold bituminous material is applied, producing a hard, smooth surface for the finished highway.

—Photos Courtesy of U. S. Bureau of Roads

Texas

Agriculture - 1937
16 Improvement of

SAN ANTONIO, TEX., EXPRESS
MAY 21, 1937 J2

Think

WHEN this State's economic history shall be written, some years from now, the action taken by the Texas Bankers Association's 1937 convention in this city for setting up a Texas Chemurgic Council will stand out as significant. That step formally opens up a new, closer partnership between agriculture and industry which holds almost limitless possibilities. The entire Nation is practically interested in this movement, as attested by the fact that 15 States already have organized Councils like that just initiated here; but as the foremost agricultural State, Texas holds the larger stake in the program. Recognizing that fact, and also considering their own interests bound up with farmer welfare, the Texas Bankers adopted resolutions endorsing the chemurgic plan and directing the Association's president to appoint banker-members on the new Texas Chemurgic Council.

* * *

THAT BODY thus is pledged to the fullest possible co-operation with other State agencies—of course including the industrialist and farmer organizations—in promoting the new idea and seeing it practically applied in Texas. The bankers particularly would encourage "the cultivation and production of such crops and crop products as are now imported, but which experience discloses are indigenous to Texas soils and climate." Probably that statement refers largely to the soybean, which now ranks as the most important "chemurgic" crop. It is put to many diverse uses — yielding oil for paints and varnishes, lubrication and cooking; plastic for automobile accessories and countless articles which have everyday utility. The soybean already is widely cultivated in Texas, but the peanut — grown more extensively — has proved even more versatile, under the magic worked by that master-chemist, Dr. George W. Carver of Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute.

* * *

ANOTHER promising "chemurgic" crop, to which the bankers' resolution probably refers, is the pine tree. Establishment of the South's first newsprint paper mill (in Texas) will open up a profitable, continuing market for that neglected woodlot product. For the present, Texas imports its newsprint. Those are but a few of the new or largely unused crops which may be turned to profit through the genius, industry and diligence of scientists in the laboratory, farmers in the field, planning engineers, financiers, organizers and developers. Tung trees, which thrive in Southeast Texas; rice-straw and cottonseed hulls, sugarcane, the grain sorghums; tomatoes, potatoes and artichokes; wool and mohair, the Texas hardwoods—in fact, about everything which Texas soil produces, hold chemurgic possibilities.

* * *

EXTENSION of first-aid instruction, swimming and life-saving drill; the establishment of more first-aid stations along highways to succor traffic-accident victims, and additional emphasis on preparedness for major disasters, will mark the American Red Cross' program during the coming year. That announcement of objectives came from the organization upon closing its recent annual convention in Washington. Such a schedule indicates that the Red Cross purposes to continue serving the people with all the resources of its far-flung organization and all the splendid traditions behind it.

* * *

NOW that the Nation is on the road to recovery and the unemployment-relief situation has been eased somewhat, the Red Cross is leaving that work to other hands and is concentrating its efforts on reducing the distressingly high traffic-accident death rate. As it but lately entered the campaign to cut down the highway accident rate, the organization has not yet had sufficient time to show results in that direction. Should motorists co-operate as effectively and consistently as industrial workers have co-operated in a like campaign, the remarkable improvement in factory, mine and shop and on railroads during the past 25 years might be duplicated on the highways. With relief work still going on in the Ohio-Mississippi flood-zones and the memory of succor given Texas flood-victims last year vivid in the public mind, citizens everywhere should perceive the necessity of keeping the Red Cross emergency relief organization fully fitted out and ready for instant action.

Cotton Quilts Are Used To Build Texas Roads

AUSTIN, TEXAS, June 13.—(AP)—Texans use old-fashioned cotton quilts to build concrete highways.

Cotton mats —which officials say are nothing more than quilts—are used in "curing" newly laid pavement.

It started as an experiment to develop a new use for the state's chief crop but officials found that the mats when wetted and placed on new paving for 72 hours were more efficient than burlap—imported from India—for their purpose.

The moist cotton maintains a constant temperature and prevents the surfacing from cracking. The department has used some 20,000 mats. The same mat can be used many times.

Agriculture - 1937
6
Improvement of.

Virginia
6

Biggest Yield Of Potatoes

EWINGTON, Va.—The largest yield of Irish potatoes ever to be recorded for Campbell county was reported last week for Thomas Hogue, farmer of this community. Mr. Hogue's yield was 225 bushels for three-fourths of an acre.

Mr. Hogue planted the garden plot as a demonstration for local farm officials. A good seed bed was prepared and 800 pounds of 5-7-5 fertilizer was applied before planting. Care was exercised in working the crop and Mr. Hogue was aided by a good season.

Agriculture-1937
6
Labor Conditions

Alabama

Letters To The Editor

Please be brief. We reserve the right to cut letters more than 300 words long

A PLANTER TO WPA

Editor The Advertiser:

WPA seemed to object to the anonymity of my letter, yet the writer who answered it did not see fit to sign the letter published in The Advertiser, so I do not know whether to make my answer to WPA at Washington, Birmingham, Montgomery or Selma. I cannot see why they objected so long as actual facts were furnished. Because I am more interested and more familiar with conditions in Dallas County, I shall confine this letter to the situation there.

After reading the article of Jan. 20, I wrote seven of the largest landowners and operators in Dallas County with whom I had not discussed the subject and asked the following questions:

1. Is it your opinion that WPA work has enabled town negroes and farm negroes to secure work which, if it were not available, would force farm negroes back to the farm?

2. What is the prevailing day labor wage in the community in which your plantation is located?

3. Have you ever applied to the WPA or to the Resettlement Administration for labor, or for tenants and if so, what success did you have?

4. Is it your understanding that the WPA in Dallas County has eliminated all farm families from their list?

5. Could you afford to pay the same rate of pay that is paid to laborers on WPA work and work them the same number of hours per day?

I have received replies from six of these and to the first question every one replied "yes". To the second question, the replies were all alike and the rate of pay was the same as we are paying. To the third question, three of the farmers stated that they had applied for labor, but had had no success securing it. Two said they had not applied and the sixth person said he had asked only for cotton pickers and secured same. To the fourth question, all replied "no", stating that they could not pay the wage scale paid by WPA and at the same time furnish house, fuel, water, garden, etc.

One of the replies came from an officer of the Chamber of Commerce at Selma, and I am taking the liberty of quoting a part of his letter as follows:

"In the last two weeks I have had at least a dozen farmers from this section to appeal to me to try to do something to stop the migration of their labor to the industrial centers. Some of it is going not only into Selma, Montgomery and Birmingham, but as far north as Detroit, Cleveland and other cities. I operate, myself, very considerable farm interests in this county, and I have had the same experience they have had. Just last week a negro who has been with me since boyhood, for 20 years, and has been used as my overseer, went to Birmingham and got employment almost the day he got there. He did not go from necessity, because he not only made good wages himself, but made money on the farm his wife operated this year. At least 15 have gone from farms in sight of my own and have every one gotten employment. I can give the names of the negroes and where they are working if there is any doubt in the minds of those responsible for relief in the industrial centers as to whether what we are saying is based on facts or not."

The WPA article states that complaints in the past have shown generally that they were (a) based on misinformation; (b) were made by some person who was unwilling to pay as much as his neighbors were paying; and (c) that the complaint was an "inspired" complaint—i.e., having political significance only. It is with much interest that I note they do not say "all" complaints fall into one of these three classifications. In my case, I beg to advise that: (a) information was gotten from Selma and I found the gentleman in charge to be a very conscientious man, endeavoring to cooperate. He stated three weeks ago that all farm families had been eliminated, so I presume that either the 32 families were not on the Selma list and were elsewhere in the county, or else he knew they would not be satisfactory. In regard to (b) I am willing to pay scale paid by my neighbors or as high as paid by any cotton farmer in Dallas County. (c) My complaint was not "inspired" but was a request to representatives and senators to help reduce WPA so that available jobs in industry would be taken by those on WPA, thereby filling the need rather than drawing farm labor to the cities. It was not a suggestion for complete discontinuance of WPA.

WPA is one of the best programs of the United States Government and any man, white or colored, who wants to work and cannot find it, should be given the opportunity. But presumably, Mr. Roosevelt and those who wrote the law had no intention that it should create labor shortage, or pay higher than prevailing wages. The foundation of my original complaint was that WPA rolls in Birmingham and other cities have been maintained at levels which caused a shortage of labor in industrial centers to such an extent that farm labor could come in and secure work immediately. If this condition did not exist, they would return to the farm.

WPA states that they have urged employers to hire labor from relief rolls. Is it not true that an employer hires those who come to him seeking work; and does it require intelligence to con farmer or otherwise, pay common labor a "normal wage" as paid by WPA working them seven hours, less one hour for noon, and transport them to and from work? I am referring to negro labor which constitutes 42 per cent of Alabama WPA employes.

Many farmers whom I have talked with are planning to operate with more machinery and less negroes, because of present conditions. Others are planning to raise more cattle so as to utilize their land which has been abandoned by the tenants who have secured work in town. Would it not seem logical that when the farm labor returns, they will not be needed? Therefore, WPA labor and relief rolls will probably be a permanent adjunct of our government. Is that not worth the consideration and thought of business men and taxpayers," the letter added.

Furthermore, I would like to see some member of your staff visit, unannounced, a WPA job, remaining there not over two hours to determine whether or not it is an easy laboring job and whether or not there are many whose past experience and ability entitle them to common labor classification rather than skilled classifications on which basis they are paid.

Montgomery, Ala. HAZARD H. STAY.

Sharecropper Sues

Mattie May Jones, sharecropper on the Harry L. Price plantation near Lake Communale, filed suit for $5,000 against Mr. Price in Shelby County circuit court yesterday for injuries she said she received when George Murray, overseer of the plantation, beat her with a stick of wood.

ARTICLE FAVORS TENANTS' UNION; JABS AT GRAVES

Birmingham Escapes Fire In The Latest Blast From Harper's Magazine

Birmingham, which received a verbal drubbing as the "city of perpetual promise" in the August issue of Harper's Magazine, again comes in for treatment in the publication's September issue.

In an article titled "Dixie Detour," Cedric Belfrage, English author, comments impartially and without venom while relating his experiences in Birmingham—in contrast to the August article.

But when he discusses the sharecroppers' plight and their unionization movement, his crusading sword is drawn with fierceness and gusto.

'No Problem'

He puts down the attitude of Governor Graves, "a heavy-set man with a rubicund face, jolly in expression except when he pursed his lips and narrowed his eyes to make a heavy point," on the tenant farmers' problems.

While he merely presents factual results of his interview with the governor, there is no mistaking the subtle vein of sarcasm he feels at the governor's remarks.

Discussing sharecroppers and the sharecroppers' union, he declared the governor said: "There is no problem over them in Alabama. There is the utmost accord. Alabama agriculturally is in the most prosperous state it's ever been in. The New Deal has done wonders. The sharecroppers are not joining the union, so presumably they don't want it."

Living In Shacks

At Montgomery, the author found members of the sharecroppers' union lived in "shacks which were little more than decayed boards roughly nailed to uprights, with gaps between them covered on the inside with newspapers...You would have kept your pigs in them if you didn't care much for pigs."

"One of them described how he had been bound to a tree and flogged by whites...Last year he had produced four bales, had got out of debt for the first time in years and saved $21...The landlord had just told him that from now on he would have to divvy up 50-50 on what he grew on the quarter-acre, just as he did on the cotton...

"One man said last year he had grown five bales and had somehow ended up $117 in debt to the landlord...

"Tales were told of real peonage conditions, of Negroes who tried to leave a plantation and were brought back by the sheriff."

Ex-Professor Flogged

The author deals somewhat at length with Joseph Gelders' flogging. Gelders is described as "a lanky, soft-voiced, academic-looking man, a former university professor who dropped his job to work with his wife as local representative of the Committee for Defense of Political Prisoners. The Gelders are 'nice people.' Their distinguished Southern relatives think them mad because of course there is no such thing in America as a political prisoner." That is one of his jibes subtly sarcastic.

"It gives you a queer feeling," the article continues "to hear him tell how one of the thugs stomped on him, permanently injuring his heart; and how, having failed to get a grand jury to indict, he sometimes passes this man on the street and the man's face reddens as they pass...He still suffers and is quickly exhausted, but his energy is dynamic."

50 Cents A Day

Belfrage paid a visit to Walker Martin, president of the new Farm Laborers' and Cotton Field Workers' Union, in Birmingham. He asked Martin if all organizers of Southern labor were "outsiders" and racketeers.

Martin's reply, again subtle and sarcastic: "We're Southern—born and reared, but we go North for a few weeks to learn organization tactics from experts. That makes us the same as aliens when we return...

"We have formed this union because so many of the big plantations are changing over from the sharecropping to the wage system. Wages—for seasonal work only, and not for one man but for a whole family—are as low as 50 cents a day and $7.50 a month. And then it is rarely in money, but in scrip or goods from the employer's store. Housing conditions are terrible and epidemics sweep the plantations. The Wagner Act excludes us."

Agriculture-1937
6
Labor Conditions.

OUT of Arkansas itself comes a report on sharecropping by the Arkansas State Policy Committee, a non-political body of public-spirited citizens of that state. There is indication that Governor Bailey intends to accept the report as the basis of his administrative policy. The study points out that more than half the farm acreage in Arkansas—54 percent—is now cultivated by tenants. . . . In its concrete proposals for remedying the economic misery of sharecroppers, the report places its main reliance on the Bankhead bill for federal aid in financing the purchase of farms so that tenants may attain the status of owners. A housing program by state or federal agencies—or both—is called for in the report, without specification as to details, and it is recommended that food production be increased by free distribution of seeds and state supervision of food-producing activities, that education be related to the practicalities of the immediate environment and that health services be extended. Abolition of short-term (particularly one-year) leases is called for, an honest system of keeping sharecroppers' accounts is earnestly recommended, and the report ends with a sturdy declaration in favor of civil liberties, the right of suffrage and the right to organize that is one of the most heartening things to come from Arkansas in many months. The report seems to us weakest in placing its chief reliance on helping individual tenants to purchase individual farms. To reach a substantial majority of clients on this basis would require very large (and unavailable) sums, and the whole logic of modernized, mechanized agriculture in the South points toward coöperative or collective farming.

DEATH OF IDEAS

Trouble With Writer Viewing Tenant Situation in Arkansas

To The Commercial Appeal:

I have long been a reader and admirer of The Commercial Appeal, but I have not been given to parading my personal views and opinions through its columns. I, however, carefully read and ponder the opinions expressed in its columns by various and sundry persons; for, by so doing, I catch a glimpse of "undercover" currents — the "death struggles" of old ideas, and the aggressive "drive" of new ideas. As an instance, Mr. J. M. Vaden of Halls, Tenn. He does not say much. He does not say anything that is worth remembering. The only reason I refer to his article is because it is such a good picture. It is not only a picture of Mr. Vaden himself, but it is a picture of quite a "body" of old ideas that look backward to the "good old days." Listen to him: "All this howl about the tenant question is bunk. It is no better nor worse than it has been for a hundred years . . ." Then he declares that the New Deal activities disrupted the tenant situation. Then he says that "tenants are just as essential to the south as cornbread and molasses and IF (my caps) given a fair deal will in the future as in the past produce a livelihood for themselves and a PROFIT (my caps) for the landlord."

There is a picture for you. An excellent picture. He is unable by reason of his "profit" ideas to regard a tenant or sharecropper as a human being like him. He is unable to comprehend that a tenant or sharecropper has a wife and children who have the same aspirations, the same desires for the comforts and necessities of life, the same longing for a decent standard of living as his own wife and children have. But he is willing to drive that poor tenant, his wife and children at "hard" labor on cornbread and molasses (a livelihood) with no thought of a decent home for the tenant, to say nothing of a "profit" for him, and all this that he might wind up the year with a "profit."

To Mr. Vaden, and to all those others who share his views, and there are a bunch of them, it is clear to the student of affairs that their day is fast drawing to a close. And it is well that it is so. No large body of human beings can long be held in subjection and exploited and tyrannized. The pages of history, from ancient times down to our day, are replete with the fact that nature and nature's God abhor such inequities. Our democratic government will be doing itself a deed that will perpetuate it as nothing else will by seeing to it that all honest, law-abiding, self-respecting and industrious tenants and sharecroppers be given a home, a decent home, and land and intelligent and sympathetic supervision so that men of Mr. Vaden's type cannot euchre them out of it. I know several ragged tenants today who would, figuratively, work their hands off to pay for a place, if given the chance. Then let the government put on a few more "hired hands" to market the products of these new-found homeowners so that "profit-taking" middlemen, like Mr. Vaden, could not get their clutches on anything

RELIEF FOR MR. WOOD

Let Him Sell Land to Tenants At Propitious Time

To The Commercial Appeal:

In a recent issue of your paper there is an article from Mr. C. L. Wood, Columbus, Miss., in which he explains the many hardships and disadvantages of the landowner, with a plea for sympathy, or an even break for the landowner.

The writer has lived in three states and has observed that, as a rule, most property owners, who are owners of large tracts of land, have many hardships, but as Mr. Wood that these tenant homeowners bought or sold.

This leads me to take a whack at Arkansas and that Mena school. Particularly at that two-by-four Baptist preacher and those one or two legislators who have sworn vengeance on atheism and Communism.

Let me suggest to these honest but overzealous patriots that I do not think that God objects to a little bit of atheism. In fact, I believe that history will prove that He encourages it: Witness Russia and Spain. I believe every reasonable and thinking man will agree that this is God's world. That does not mean that He will not do violence, when it takes it to bring the world, at those rare intervals, a step nearer to that glorious day when every man will do justice to his brother. He will slaughter, or cause to be slaughtered, and dye a continent red with the blood of those who sought to interpose their puny effort to stay the ongoing of His kingdom. I feel that the teaching of Communism, as well as Fascism, Nazism and all other isms, would be a highly desirable feature not only in our colleges, but in our high schools. All men everywhere who are willing to deal justly, asking no more privilege for themselves than they do for their fellow man, and are willing to acquiesce in, without opposition to, the correction of social injustice and abuses, have nothing to fear.

M. states concerning tenants, these landowners are owners of many acres from choice and not from necessity, for during favorable conditions some large landowners I have seen were not co tent with what they had—they wanted to buy more land while it was a paying proposition, and did buy all they could get. If they owned 100 acres, they wanted 1,000, and when they got 1,000, they wanted a section, and perhaps some might have bought the whole county if they could have gotten it. While conditions were good and cotton was 20 to 30 cents a pound, the landowner furnished the tenant everything, having the supply merchant save him from 10 per cent up, perhaps, on all supplies, which certainly did not make any hardship at the end of the year on all expensive clocks, sewing machines and stoves bought by the tenant.

The writer has lived for nine years renting a house in a city from a man who owned two good farms, seven dwellings on one street, four dwellings on another street, four business houses on the same street besides his home. I tried in 1926 to buy the home I was renting, and got an immensely positive "no!" as an answer to my request to buy. This man was clearing $400 a month from rentals, but when 1932 arrived, it was different. He pitifully informed me he would have to sell part of his property to pay his taxes if conditions were not improved over the year. It certainly is sad to live easily with plenty for so long, then have to live as a tenant, with the added misery of owning many acres to pay taxes on with borrowed money. So if I might offer a friendly suggestion to Mr. Wood, it would be to get his property in shape for sale, and as soon as conditions get to where those tenants may buy, then sell out, and when the next depression comes he will not have to be losing sleep praying for Uncle Sam to send Lazarus down to give HOLC, AAA or some other remedy. I. F. K.

Memphis.

Plantation Owner Cures Tenant Ills

POPLAR GROVE, Ark., April 28.—(AP)—Joe Webb, Poplar Grove plantation owner, has his own solution for the tenant problem.

He told a Phillips County outlook meeting sponsored by the state extension service that a good way to encourage tenants to become independent is to teach them how they can live on their own.

Instead of permitting his tenants to plant their entire acreage in cotton, he insists that they devote at least two-fifths of their land to garden and feedstuff. Mr. Webb supplies each with a calf and several pigs. The tenant pays for them out of his crop at the end of the year.

If the tenant neglects his stock or garden, Mr. Webb said he insisted that the family move on.

ALEX'S A PLANTER

To The Commercial Appeal:

In your last Sunday issue, Mr. T. H. Alexander had an article about the dirt farmer—he claims to be one, real serious about it, and showed resentment at the unsignified spirit of levity shown by friends and neighbors in pulling off jokes about his farming—that his farm lost as much during the depression as any of its size, that he has it covered with a mortgage that will not leak, that he abuses the hardware trusts or the high prices of farm machinery, that he scores the government for high taxes, and he had tenants that burned his barn for fuel rather than go to the woods and cut. And this given to show that he was a real farmer.

But this man's classification is poor, for our modern lexicographers are agreed that the man makes his money in the city and spends it on the farm, is a planter (he plants it never to be seen again), and the man that makes it on the farm and spends it in the city is the real farmer. Hence, the man that lives by "writin' pieces for the papers," must be classed as a planter—not a farmer.

Tenants are also classified: God's tenants, and the devil's tenants. I have seen the farmer kind making a crop and living in a tent, happy and hopeful, the dirt floor covered with clean white sand, the children in patched overalls, but clean, and the walk bordered with flowers. They were rearing a family for God and country, and such industry and sacrifices, and self-denial, will make landowners by and by.

It was the other kind that made them wood, and cut just the right length, having in mind the fellow that was starving, yet refused the gift of a bushel of corn because it was not shelled—devil's tenants are like that. I have seen them in a hovel—the women dipped, the ragged children scratched, and ole Rube "chawed," spat at a knothole in the floor, cussed the "government," bemoaned high taxes that he was never known to pay, but in addition to the loss of his barn, fuel from the barn of Planter Alex ander. He ought to have furnished rested in federal relief, and old

J. H. WELLBORN.

Starkville, Miss.

Protection Promised Negro Farm Workers

BLYTHEVILLE, Ark., May 26.—City and county officers today promised full protection for negro farm laborers against white labor agitators, who allegedly have threatened them with violence if they work for less than $1.50 per day.

Police Chief Ed Rice and Deputy Sheriff Arch Lindsey today sought to establish the identity of men who are reported to have threatened negroes who chop cotton for a lower wage scale.

In order to counteract labor agitation activities they threatened to invoke vagrancy laws to keep able-bodied negroes from "loafing." Several truck loads of negroes were taken to the fields from here today under the protection of local officers.

LABOR VIOLENCE FLARES

One Hurt, Negro Charged With Intimidating Farm Workers

BLYTHEVILLE, Ark., May 31.—Officers quelled a farm labor disturbance here today in which a white man was struck but not seriously hurt. They arrested John Cook, Luxora negro, on charges of intimidating labor and one officer fired a shot in the air to stop the flight of another negro held as a material witness.

A group of negroes and whites gathered on a local street this morning, where Cook is alleged to have threatened negroes who would work for less than $1.50 daily wage scale.

Pete Marshall, another negro was taken into custody by Constable Charles Lutes as a witness against Cook.

During the disturbance, E. Smith, former local officer and now a WPA carpenter, was struck.

Protection Assured For Negro Workers

BLYTHEVILLE, Ark., May 27.—Assured of protection against labor agitators who allegedly warned them not to work in the fields for less than $1.50 a day, scores of negroes were transported to farms in this vicinity today.

Deputy Sheriff Arch Lindsey said today the supply of workers exceeded the demand after protection against unidentified agitators was promised.

The farm division of the local Chamber of Commerce also took a hand in the situation, offering a $50 cash reward for the arrest and conviction of any person guilty of threatening or molesting workers.

More Tenant Abuses Charged In Arkansas

MEMPHIS, TENN., May 29.—(AP)—President J. R. Butler of the Southern Tenant Farmers' Union, said today specific charges of abuses against civil liberties in the East Arkansas sharecropper area would be submitted to the LaFollette civil liberties committee in Washington next week.

Butler said one of the instances the union will cite would be that officers at Blytheville, Ark., threatened cotton choppers in that territory with forced evacuation of their homes unless they agreed to work for $1.25 a day.

Butler said the committee asked specific charges after the union telegraphed a plea for an investigation of treatment of union members in Arkansas.

Race Not the Cause

To let kinship of race lead to sympathy for the Arkansas plantation hands who were cruelly beaten by their overseer, is to miss the fact that they are no worse treated than steel workers used to be, and Kentucky coal miners or New York sweatshop garment makers were up until recently. Wherever an employer squeezes the last possible cent of profit from his employes, the injustice of the system begets inhuman treatment for its victims. It is their condition, not their race, that invites cruel treatment.

It is vital that Negroes realize this truth. So long as they act under the delusion that it is their race which makes them hated, there is nothing they can do, because they cannot change their color. But the moment they see their brethren are wage slaves, shackled as hard and fast by prejudice as their fathers were by law, they will have diagnosed the disease and can treat it.

Recognition of evils on southern farms as industrial, and not racial, will set Negroes to using the many new laws passed to stop exploitation. It will bring them into alliance with the general movement for uplifting the worker. It will do away with consideration of race, the one difference men discuss on feelings rather than on sense.

The moment the southern Negro employed on the farm realizes that he is there solely because he can produce cotton cheaper, and that he will be displaced when the machine can do his work, he may get the courage of despair. If he does, he will decide he might as well take a step in his own behalf now.

No matter how richly conditions on southern farms deserve to be condemned reform is impossible without effort on the part of the farm laborers.

Hell On Earth In Arkansas

By A. LEE KELLY

WHEATLEY, Ark.—White plantation bosses club and whip women and men at Moro, 10 miles from here on highway 78. In other words it is like one of the plantation workers said, "There is plain hell in Moro—worse than in the worst days of slavery."

On Friday morning, June 18, at 8 o'clock about 150 men, women and children were chopping cotton. A white overseer whom the Negroes call "Capt. Tom," told one of the men to get a fresh barrel of water. Instead the man brought a barrel of water which had been standing all night.

This overseer went to another overseer (there are 12 in all on this particular plantation) and borrowed a hoe handle. He walked up behind the Negro who failed to carry out his orders and started beating him over the head with the handle while women and children started crying.

Take Man to Woods

The Negro worker, who is known as "Black Smith," pleaded for his life. Negro men went about grumbling but afraid to raise their hands because most of the overseers are armed with a pistol.

Captain Tom, as the workers called him, broke the hoe handle over Black Smith's head shouting that "all n———— and dogs have got to do as I tell 'em." The wounded man, bleeding and stumbling, made his way to the foreman house for protection. He staggered in the yard begging him to stop the assault.

Instead the foreman got another hoe handle and the overseer secured a new one for himself and the two beat Black Smith. Then they loaded him into a truck and carried him five miles down the road and took him off into the wooded section and beat him some more. Their excuse was that "he had poked his mouth out after the first beating."

Afraid To Quit Work

The Negroes then started to quit for fear of their own lives but a Negro who had been employed for years on this plantation advised the men and women not to do so because he said the men at the big house who always went armed would shoot them and swear in court that the Negroes had started trouble and they (the whites) had to shoot to protect themselves.

Some Holiness women started singing church hymns and marched from the field. The others stayed on until the trucks from Brinkley came to take them home. The majority, however, were ready to go to work the following morning when the trucks came to Brinkley to take them to the plantation.

The workers are paid 10 cents an hour. The day is 10 hours long. In others words these slaves work for one dollar a day. Trucks come to Brinkley for them and take them back to Brinkley. Out of this dollar a day the Negroes have to sustain themselves.

The plantation is owned by one J. A. Cooper of West Memphis, Arkansas. He is said to own 5,000 acres.

Whip Sleeping Man

Information reaches the writer that at cotton planting time one of the hired hands didn't plant the seed like he was told. That night when he had gone to bed, one of the overseers went to the Negro's room and beat him with a rattlesnake whip until the poor worker was unconscious.

Some of the Negro workers who were on the field on June 18 said that it wasn't so much that the man had made a mistake and brought a barrel of water which had stood over night that caused the overseer to become enraged and beat the man. These Negroes who know the ways of the plantation bosses say Black Smith talked once too often—not to the overseer but to this overseer's Negro woman friend.

There are two white hoodlums here in Wheatley. One of them is an officer of the law. The other is not. They beat a Negro woman up so terrible that the doctors said they had broken her leg. Nothing was done about it.

Beat Negroes as Joke

Over at Brinkley, the police get drunk and beat up the colored men and women as a joke.

Ten miles from Memphis is another plantation, owned by J. Rolph. It comprises 5,000 acres. There is no whipping of help there. The owner won't stand for that.

While riding from the Rolph plantation, we passed a prison farm. The prisoners were chopping cotton. Behind them rode guards on horses. They carried whips and also were armed. Everytime one of the prisoners would get a little behind the others, the guard would ride up and strike the prisoner with the whip.

Because some men can work faster than others, the whips were busy. White prisoners are not treated in that fashion.

The night of the Joe Louis-Braddock fight, the Negroes in Moro did not go to the filling station to listen to the returns over the radio. They were afraid that if Louis won the whites would beat them.

Negro Woman Is Kind

Yet, strange as it may seem, there is a Negro woman who owns a farm two miles from Brinkley. Her name is Mrs. Ethel Brewer. She makes her hired hands chop slow in the sun and after they have worked for a while she insists they go over in the shade and rest before chopping some more. She pays more money than the white farmers or even the white plantation owners. Yet she has a hard time getting enough Negroes to work her farm.

These Negro workers say they don't want to work for their own people no matter what they pay.

And there is a certain class of Negro women who make themselves the slaves, body and soul, of these overseers who dare any Negro man to be caught talking to them. At the same time these same women have to grab the hoe and work the same 10 hours each day.

The beatings continue.

Hell is in this section of Arkansas.

Slavery was not abolished by the Emancipation Proclamation.

WPA to Release 300 For Work on Farms

Special To The Commercial Appeal

BLYTHEVILLE, Ark., Aug. 26.—Workers on WPA rolls in this section will be released for cotton picking and other farm labor this Fall, according to T. J. Collier Jr., field representative for Region 1 of the Newport District, which includes Mississippi County.

At present there are fewer than 300 workers on WPA rolls. They will be released "provided prevailing wages are paid and the employers requesting labor are responsible parties."

Employers needing workers were advised to make their requests to the National Re-employment Office nearest them, giving the number and type of workers wanted.

Arkansas.

Agriculture-1937
Labor Conditions.

ARKANSANS PROTEST IMPORTING PICKERS

McKinley Says Practice Not Banned By Laws

PETITION SENT TO BAILEY

75 Residents In and Near Earle Sign Complaint—Labor Commissioner Urges Use of Local Workers

By The Associated Press

LITTLE ROCK, Aug. 26.—Protests against the importation from Memphis of cotton pickers to help move the bumper crop in East Arkansas brought a statement today from Labor Commissioner Ed I. McKinley that there was no state or Federal statute against the practice.

He said, however, that his office would urge as wide a use of Arkansas labor as possible.

"I appreciate the anxiety of the planters to get the cotton picked quickly, in view of weather uncertainties," said McKinley, "and that of course is the reason why they want picking done at once and on a large scale basis."

Labor Survey Underway

He said a protest against labor importation signed by about 75 residents living in and near Earle, which had been sent to the Governor's office, had been turned over to him. He in turn forwarded it to the State WPA offices.

I fany of those signing the protest were relief clients, McKinley said, they could be certified to farmers needing labor through the WPA.

W. A. Rooksbery, state director of the United States Employment Service, announced a labor survey was now in progress in East Arkansas, but expressed belief there was sufficient resident labor there to harvest the current crop.

Mexican Labor Unmentioned

The Earle petition made no reference that about 300 Mexicans had been brought into the Hughes area in East Arkansas from Texas to help with the picking.

McKinley said the only information he had on the Mexican labor came to him through copy of a letter from the Texas Labor Commissioner to a planter in East Arkansas advising that those responsible for transporting the workers had not fully complied with the Texas law dealing with removal of labor from that state.

Mexican Labor, McKinley said, had once before been used to pick cotton in this section, several years ago.

BLYTHEVILLE OBJECTS TO HIRING OF PICKERS

C. of C. Asks Aid In Stopping Missouri Practice

From The Commercial Appeal Little Rock Bureau

LITTLE ROCK, Sept. 17.—The Blytheville Chamber of Commerce today appealed to Atty. Gen. Jack Holt for aid in stopping Missouri cotton growers from coming into Mississippi County and carrying off the cotton pickers.

Mississippi County farmers are suffering because they cannot get pickers or have to pay an increased price for picking, J. Mell Brooks, secretary of the Chamber of Commerce, wrote.

But Asst. Atty. Gen. John P. Streepey announced that the only hope for relief lay in the State Labor Department's enforcement of the law requiring payment of a $200 fee for soliciting workers in Arkansas.

"We can make everyone from outside the state pay that fee if we catch them," Harry Malcomb, deputy labor commissioner, said. "I'll be glad to go to Blytheville and see what I can do."

Special to The Commercial Appeal

BLYTHEVILLE, Ark., Sept. 17.—The condition of the cotton crop in this vicinity is much improved after several days of sunshine and dry weather. Picking is now normal after a "cotton holiday" plea made recently because of poor crop conditions.

D. S. Lantrip, county agricultural agent, said today cotton is now dried sufficiently the oil content of the seed is almost normal, but warned farmers not to begin work too early in the morning. The heavy dew is as harmful as picking after a rain.

Some gins, which were closed, are now operating day and night.

THREATS PROVE COSTLY

Negro Fined $500, Sent to Jail on Cotton Pickers' Testimony

BLYTHEVILLE, Ark., Oct. 8.—George Gowdy, negro, was fined $500 in Municipal Court today and sentenced to 12 months in jail upon conviction of intimidating laborers in Northeast Arkansas cotton fields.

Negro witnesses testifying for the state said Gowdy warned them not to pick cotton for less than $1 per 100 pounds, declaring that they would be beaten if they did. Pickers in this area are being paid 75 cents a hundred. Gowdy denied making the statement. The fine and sentence were the minimum under the state law.

Arkansans Jailed On 'Interference With Labor' Charge

FORREST CITY, Ark.—(ANP)—Sheriff J. M. Campbell arrested three Negroes after Ed Bledsoe, white farmer of Roundpond, said the trio threatened Negro cotton pickers on his plantation with whipping unless they quit work until they were paid $1 a hundred.

The three were charged with "interfering with labor." This is the section where planters have bitterly opposed efforts of the interracial Southern Tenant Farmers union to better working conditions.

FOREST CITY, Ark. — C. A. Stanfield of Hot Springs, attorney for the Southern Tenant Farmers union, charged this week that he was attacked on the courthouse steps Friday while making preparations to defend three Negro sharecroppers.

After the incident, Stanfield left town and Justice of the Peace J. E. McCutcheon named James Lanier, a local attorney to defend the three.

Jailed For Threat To Cotton Pickers

BLYTHEVILLE, Ark. (ANP)—George Gowdy, colored, was fined $500 in municipal court Friday and sentenced to 12 months in jail on charges of threatening beating to cotton pickers who worked for less than $1 per hundred pounds. Pickers here are paid 75 cents a hundred. The previous week three other Negroes received similar sentences in another part of the state after their lawyer was chased out of town.

White Lawyer Who Would Defend Group Is Chased From Forrest City, Ark.

HOT SPRINGS, Ark.—(A N P)—C. A. Stanfield, white, American Civil Liberties union attorney, was attacked and forced to leave Forrest City, Arkansas where he had gone to defend three colored clients, according to affidavits sent last week to the LaFollette Civil Liberties committee in Washington by the Southern Tenant Farmers' Union.

Stanfield went with two women companions to Forrest City for the trial of the trio, members of the tenant union, who were charged with "interfering with labor" by insisting that cotton pickers refuse to work unless they were paid one dollar per hundred pounds.

"I was standing at the courthouse," the lawyer said, "when six or seven men came up and asked how long I was going to be in town. I replied it wouldn't be long as I had planned no defense for the Negroes.

"Dr. W. T. Winter, St. Francis county health officer said, "Thats too long," and struck me. Then Deputy Sheriff Bunch made me go to my car where Evelyn Smith, a tenant union stenographer, and Barbara House, a guest of Miss Smith ,were sitting. They told me they had been ordered in the court room to leave town.

The colored prisoners—two men and a woman—were then tried without counsel, convicted, and fined $250 each. These convictions will be appealed. Stanfield explained he had not planned a defense because it was futile in this section, but had adopted the strategy of permitting the convictions with a view of appealing to higher courts.

LABOR AGITATORS HELD

Three Negroes Arrested on Charge Of Intimidating Pickers

FORREST CITY, Ark., Sept. 28.—(AP)—Sheriff J. M. Campbell reported today the arrest of three negroes on charges of interfering with labor.

He said Ed Belshe of Roundpond, 14 miles east of here, made the complaint, accusing the trio of warning negro cotton pickers on the Belshe Plantation that they would be whipped if they did not stop picking cotton until they could obtain $1 a hundred pounds.

ASSAULT IS CHARGED BY TENANT ATTORNEY

Ordered Out of Forrest City, He Claims

Special to The Commercial Appeal

FORREST CITY, Ark., Oct. 1.—A second altercation within two weeks here between persons connected with the Southern Tenant Farmers Union and local residents brought a claim this afternoon from C. A. Stanfield, union attorney, that he was attacked and ordered out of the city.

Stanfield charged six or seven men struck him and told him to leave town with Miss Evelyn Smith, of Memphis, assistant secretary for the union, and Miss Barbara Howes, a Boston girl visiting Miss Smith. Stanfield came here to represent three negroes charged with interfering with labor.

The first altercation took place several days ago when J. R. Butler, president of the union, claimed he was attacked during a court hearing here. At that time, Sheriff J. M. Campbell said the altercation was between Butler and Dr. W. A. Winters, health officer for St. Francis County, and land operator. Dr. Winters was involved in the row today, Sheriff Campbell said.

GOV. OF ARKANSAS GETS COMPLAINT OF FARMERS' UNION

MEMPHIS, Tenn., Nov. 11—(Special)—An appeal for police protection for cotton pickers in Eastern Arkansas who, because they want to work for union wages, have been threatened with "kidnaping and hanging," has been forwarded to Governor Carl E. Bailey of Arkansas by President J. R. Butler of the Southern Tenant Farmers Union.

Jess Rose of Blytheville, Ark., a member of the Union and who had been hauling cotton pickers to and from the fields of a planter who was paying them $1 per 100 pounds for all the cotton they picked, instead of the 75 cents that others were paying, was kidnaped, Butler advised the Arkansas Governor, choked with a leather strap and threatened with hanging, for transporting the workers to the plantation where they were paid the higher wage scale.

Butler charged that the abductors of Rose were farmers who were paying the 75 cents per 100 pounds wage and had refused to pay the higher figure. Reputable witnesses will testify, the Union official said, that they saw two white men approach Rose as he sat in his truck in Blytheville and, at the point of pistols, force him to leave the machine and get into their automobile, and that they then drove away taking Rose with them.

Rose was taken to a deserted county fair grounds where two other white farmers joined the pair that had kidnaped him, it was charged. It was then, Butler claims, that the four white men set upon Rose, choking and threatening him.

Rose, it is understood, has ceased the hauling of pickers to the plantation of the farmer paying the $1 wage, and the workers, afraid of reprisal, have stopped going there.

Agriculture – 1937
Labor Conditions.

Arkansas.

PICKERS IN ARKANSAS LURED AWAY, CHARGE

Commercial Appeal 9-3-37

Eudoran Cites Higher Wages Offered In Louisiana

LITTLE ROCK, Sept. 2.—(AP)—W. S. Dalton of Eudora charged today in a letter to Arkansas Labor Commissioner Ed I. McKinley that Louisiana planters were enticing cotton pickers across the state line with a promise of higher wages.

They are offering the pickers $1 per 100 pounds, McKinley said. The prevailing South Arkansas scale ranges from 60 to 75 cents per 100 pounds.

McKinley advised Dalton that a state law required any person or corporation seeking to solicit laborers to work outside the state to pay a $200 annual fee and post a $1000 bond. He added the original intent of the law was to stop practices of individuals and employment agencies in sending labor outside the state through false representation.

9-3-37

The State Extension Service reported that rains which have fallen almost continuously throughout most of Arkansas since last Friday, probably would cause considerable damage to crops, especially cotton.

Cotton Pickers Claimed 'Enticed'

Advertiser

LITTLE ROCK, ARK., Sept. 2.—(AP)—W. S. Dalton of Eudora charged today in a letter to Arkansas Labor Commissioner Ed I. McKinley that Louisiana planters were enticing cotton pickers across the State line with a promise of higher wages.

"Louisiana planters are crossing the line and hiring pickers off Arkansas planters' trucks," the letter stated. "They are offering the pickers $1 per 100 pounds."

9-3-37

McKinley said the prevailing South Arkansas scale ranged from 60 to 75 cents per 100 pounds.

McKinley advised Dalton that a State law required any person or corporation seeking to solicit laborers to work outside the State to pay a $200 annual fee and post a $1,000 bond. He added the original intent of the law was to stop practices of individuals and employment agencies in sending labor outside the State through false representation.

ROW OVER PICKERS

Importation of Cotton Hands Charged to Louisianans.

Commercial Appeal

LITTLE ROCK, Ark., Sept. 2.—(AP)—W. S. Dalton, of Eudora, charged today in a letter to Arkansas Labor Commissioner Ed I. McKinley that Louisiana planters were enticing cotton pickers across the state line with a promise of higher wages.

9-3-37

"Louisiana planters are crossing the line and hiring pickers off Arkansas planters' trucks," the letter stated. "They are offering the pickers $1 per 100 pounds."

McKinley said the prevailing south Arkansas scale ranged from 60 to 75 cents per 100 pounds.

Agriculture - 1937 - I
Labor Conditions.

General

'FARM TENANCY' STUDY IS SET FOR DISCUSSION AT EMORY INSTITUTE

Constitution

Dr. Rupert Vance, Dr. Edwin R. Embree To Preside at Round Tables.

1-24-36

"Farm Tenancy," one of the south's most perplexing economic problems, will be discussed at the Emory University Institute of Citizenship February 8-11 by two social scientists who have won national recognition for their work in the field.

Atlanta.

Dr. Rupert Vance, author and research leader of the University of North Carolina, will preside at two round tables on "Farm Tenancy" together with Dr. Edwin R. Embree, president of the Julius Rosenwald Fund.

These and other round tables will be held each morning and afternoon of the institute by visiting and local authorities in the different fields, according to Dr. Cullen B. Gosnell, director. The general theme will be "Local Government in the South."

Dr. Vance is author of "Human Geography of South," a synthetic treatment of the interaction of men and nature in America, in addition to "Human Factors in Cotton Culture" and "The Profile of Southern Culture."

In his southern social geography Dr. Vance refers to Henry W. Grady as "the patron saint" of a new order. "Every skyscraper which rises in these astonishing cities of the new south," he quotes from a national magazine, "is in a real sense a monument to Grady and his genius."

Dr. Embree will assist Dr. Vance in leading the tenancy discussions, devoting his attention chiefly to cotton farm tenancy. The results of Dr. Embree's recent work in the field was published last year in "The Collapse of Cotton Tenancy." He is also the author of "Brown America," a study of negro conditions in the south.

Dr. Edwin S. Corwin, professor of jurisprudence at Princeton University, will open the four-day program at 11 o'clock Monday morning, February 8, with an address on "Problems of the Supreme Court." Round-table topics include the supreme court, county government, cotton tenancy, municipal government, international relations and public opinion.

Selma, Ala. Times
January 22, 1937

GOVERNMENT AN EASY MARK

The movement of negro tenant farmers and farm laborers away from plantations of the Black-Belt to the larger cities in the North and East to find locations in the government service or on government pay-rolls is becoming a serious problem with land-owners and no effective means has been found to circumvent it. Many complaints have been heard from owners of large tracts that this sort of thing is a flourishing but no way to abate the evil has been found.

This sort of exodus has brought about a shortage in farm labor, but it has gone on and been encouraged by Mr. Ickes and Mr. Hopkins and their multiplied agencies for many years. The poorly paid tenant farmer breaks loose from his moorings and heads for Birmingham, Cleveland Detroit where he has little dififculty in linking up with some sort of government pay-roll or relief work. All he has to do is to secure the affidavit of some unscrupulous native and a nice permanent relation with the Government agency is established. There are known to be millions of Americans, good and true, who are pampered by Government agents in securing a foot-hold in the flourishing arrangements while private employment of different kinds is being abandoned. It is not a crime in this country to "duck" a good job in order to get your name on a government pay-roll. Ample evidence is available to show that the government connives at and encourages this practice.

Mr. Raper's Mistake

Arthur Raper, professor of sociology at Agnes Scott College, misses the truth when he undertakes to diagnose the South today. The Southern Newspaper Syndicate is publishing his antagonistic views on southern farming and the tenant system.

It is a crime to indict an entire people. That is what Mr. Raper has done for the landowners of the South. He says in an article published in The Macon Telegraph and News of January 24:

1-29-37

> The tenants, whether white or Negro, have not shared in the financial risk of cotton plantation farming simply because the system did not train and would not permit them to accumulate property and exercise responsibility. In view of the fact that the cotton tenants are held by economic and cultural forces in their disinherited condition on the richest lands of the South, it is not surprising that many of them are improvident, that they often fail to report for work when expected, that they are relatively unproductive and that they frequently make careless use of what little money and provisions they get. Neither is it surprising that a plantation system which exacts high rates of interest from labor and which is so sadly lacking in economic and cultural motivation and so unproductive, should "mine" the soil of its fertility, should be subject to frequent bankruptcies, and should subject those who control it to the unending tedium of supervising property-less families made and kept childlike.

Macon, Ga.

It is difficult to see how so intelligent a writer can so far miss the mark. The landowners of the South have taken the longest chances imaginable in trying to convert their tenants and sharecroppers into land-owners. It is known that Negroes without a spare shirt to their backs have been loaned as much as three hundred and fifty or four hundred dollars to the plow with no security required except a promise to work. White tenants have been given the same chance. Every day The Telegraph hears of some tenant or sharecropper who has made enough in the previous season to run him or supply him in the following year, but instead of fortifying himself by arranging for his supplies to be paid for in cash he bought a gasoline buggy or engaged in some other foolish extravagance because other people had such things.

In some sections of Georgia today tenants and sharecroppers have in bank on deposit enough money to buy a farm of their own next year and to run themselves while they farm it. Some of these tenants say they do not want a farm of their own; they prefer to "mine" the fertility of the soil, and they can do this better by moving from one farm to another, when like the wandering cow they "think the grass is greener over yonder."

Mr. Raper forgets that a few years ago vast numbers of these people, entirely unaccustomed to civilized ways, pitiful in their ignorance and helplessness, were transplanted in the most rugged and ruthless so-called civilization of the centuries. For ages they had been living without work, and were less capable of getting along in their new environment than babies or children.

And then something happened, and that something was a horrible mistake. In this Black Belt many owners or custodians of the slaves from Africa were teaching them trades and instructing them in how to farm and to provide for themselves; some were voluntarily freeing all who seemed capable of freedom. Then suddenly hordes of white men in blue uniforms swept down on the South and destroyed the money, the homes, and much of the accumulated property of the country, thus rendering the slave owners penniless and helpless while the slaves were turned into the road and told to work out their own salvation. The masters and the slaves were both prostrate and were embittered against each other by missionaries who were as mistaken in their views as Mr. Raper seems to be, and for years they suffered from race antipathy. The clearer heads of both races have begun to outgrow their prejudices, and the white South once more offers every encouragement and every possible financial assistance to the Negro. For more than a half century now the white man of the South has had it in his heart to help the Negro to make his way. In every group there is some dishonest and unfair person; but it is erroneous to condemn all the white people or all Negroes for what a few do.

The composite picture is beautiful, but Mr. Raper and some other race agitators have been snooping among the ruins of the South until they have lost sight of the beauty. They are bringing out the soiled linen and parading it before the public to create the impression that we are an ugly and unclean people. This was the spirit that caused that horrible crime of the eighteen-sixties.

Mr. Raper should withhold judgment until he gets a clearer vision. His writings are not constructive, nor are his ideas practical. We need patience and forbearance and not inter-meddling.

PROGRAM OFFERED TO SOLVE TENANCY ON 3,000,000 FARMS

MISERY PICTURED

President's Committee Urges Land Purchase by Federal Aid

40-YEAR PAYMENT PERIOD

Interest at 2½ Per Cent Plus Reserved Fund Proposed for Amortization Plan

SPECULATION CURB ASKED

Turnover Tax on Any Farm Held Less Than Three Years Suggested in the Report

By FELIX BELAIR Jr.
Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 11.—The special committee appointed by President Roosevelt to study farm tenancy completed its labors today after adopting a report calling his attention to the fact that fewer than half of the farmers of the nation own the land they operate and that "rural civilization is threatened with decadence."

Finding that nearly 3,000,000 farmers were living under conditions directly attributable to tenancy which "make them equally easy prey to economic and even political parasites," the President's committee, headed by Secretary Wallace, proposed legislation establishing a farm security administration built around the present Resettlement Administration and supplemented by a farm security corporation.

The committee proposed that the new agency be empowered to acquire farm lands and buildings, financed at the outset by regular appropriations by Congress, and to contract with present tenants for the purchase of such farmsteads over a forty-year period so that they would be secure in their tenure and immune to land speculation.

Aid the Farm Owners Urged

The report made no mention of the amount of money the program might require, but some members were of the opnilon that at least $10,000,000 a year should be provided.

The tenant-ownership program would be augumented, under the committee's proposals, by legislation to help farm owners avoid the loss of such farms, to provide ordinary housing and sanitary facilities for the army of migatory farm laborers, to safeguard civil liberties of tenants and to place definite curbs on land speculation.

To the latter end, it was proposed that Congress enact a form of windfall tax on the proceeds of land sales undertaken within three years of the time the land was first acquired by the seller.

The report mentioned that the Federal Reserve Board and the Farm Credit Administration were "well aware of the dangers" in overcapitalization of land resulting from widespread speculation, and were "in a strong position to insist that appraisals and loan policies be kept well below advances in price and current farm incomes until the degree of permanence in such advances can be determined."

Large Land Sale Tax Favored

But the committee was of the opinion that further restraint on land speculation was needed and in connection with the proposed tax of such sales said that "such a tax, taking a large percentage of the increment, would materially discourage buying land merely for the purpose of early resale, and would tend to keep land values on a level where farmers could better afford ownership."

"Special safeguards should prevent evasion through fictitious forms of ownership, and also prevent the tax working severe hardship in cases of unavoidable resale," the report said.

The report, adopted after several minor amendments, including one providing for the amortization of tenant sales contracts within twenty years at the option of purchasing tenants, is expected to be "boiled down" prior to its submission to the President, probably before the end of the week. It is also likely to be accompanied by at least two minority expressions representing views of members who think the majority report went too far or not far enough.

Covering about eighty pages in its present form, the report went into every phase of the tenancy problem and the moral, mental, physical, social and economic results of the farming system, particularly that of the South.

Poverty Like Europe's Worst

"The extreme poverty of one-fifth to one-fourth of the farm population reflects itself in a standard of living below any level of decency," the report said. "In many areas, particularly in the South, families are living in conditions of poverty little, if any above the lowest peasantry of Europe.

"Large families of tenants or croppers, or hired farm laborers are living in houses of two or three rooms. The buildings are frequently of poor construction, out of alignment, weather beaten and unsightly. The doors and windows are rarely screened. Often the roofs are leaky. The surroundings of such houses are bleak and unattractive.

"A large proportion of these submerged classes are undernourished. Their food is lacking in variety and in essentials for nutritional balance. Their bodies are easy prey to the ravages of disease: pellagra, malaria and the hookworm and other parasites exact heavy tolls in life and energy. Suitable provision for the maintenance of health and treatment of disease for these classes of families are lacking or inadequate in many localities.

"Clothing is often scarcely sufficient to afford protection to the body, much less to help maintain self-respect.

"Farm and city well-being are closely interrelated. ow standards of living in the country limit production in the city. The use which is made of America's industrial productive capacity in part depends on the purchasing power of agriculture. And the extent to which American industry is active in turn affects the capacity of the farm population to find more jobs for its people and markets for its products."

Basis of Legislation Sought

Whole sections of the report were devoted to a description of standards of life and living among the nation's tenantry and the effect of such conditions upon the country's greatest natural resource, the soil. These sections caused much of the debate among committee members that preceded adoption of the report, and they are expected to carry much weight in view of the President's instruction to prepare a report to serve as a basis for tenant and legislation.

"After families have been long subject to poverty, insecurity and lack of normal social contacts, they are likely to lose the incentive for improving their lot," said the committee, "let alone participating in the cultural life of the community. The deficiencies in standards of living which make their bodies easy prey to biological parasites make them equally easp prey to economic and even political parasites.

"When the rungs of the agricultural ladder become rigid bars between classes, degradation of institutions results—a process which penalizes the entire population. In a community of rigid groups normal democratic processes are unable to function. The committee has noted instances where disadvantaged groups in their attempts to organize and increase their bargaining power have been unlawfully prevented from exercising their civil liberties. These are but manifestations of a malignant social condition.

"With less than half of the farmers of the nation owning all the land they operate—and much of that subject to heavy debt—and with a rising tide of landless and land-hungry people, rural civilization is threatened with decadence."

No Class or Factor Blamed

The committee blamed no class or single factor for the alarming rate at which it said tenancy was on the increase. Landlord and tenant alike suffered financial and other losses, and yet each group was powerless to remedy a mutually unprofitable situation.

"Both classes have lost heavily from time to time through the instability and uncertainty of agricultural income and of land values," the report continued. "Landlords, as well as creditor agencies, have also been confronted with the problems arising from the ignorance, inertia, ineptitude and unreliability of many of the tenants, croppers and laborers with whom they have to deal.

"Although long-established institutional arrangements, particularly in the South have had much to do with creating and perpetuating these human disabilities, this explanation affords small comfort to the landlord or creditor, caught in the meshes of a system that has impoverished those who work the fields and, all too frequently, those who own them."

Citing the presence of more than t million farm families on relief rolls, where formerly they were self-supporting, the report said:

"They make it clear that unless the nation wishes to pay the money costs as well as the social costs of supporting a continuing heavy burden of rural dependency, it must put large numbers of farm families into a relationship to the land adequate to provide for their self-support."

Would Put Wallace in Charge

Because of the essential interdependence of a national tenant aid program upon the broader national policy of raising agricultural income generally to a point representing the fair share of farmers in the national income, the President's committee proposed that the entire tenant program be placed under the direction of Secretary Wallace.

It was recommended in the case of tenants desiring to buy farmsteads from the government that they undergo a trial period of five years, during which they could demonstrate conclusively their desire and ability to become owners. No initial payment would be required under the program recommended, and rates of payment on amortization would be determined by a fixed percentage of the farmer's income from crops. Thus his security of tenure would not be jeopardized by periods of low farm prices and consequent reduced income from which amortization payments might be made.

"Since farming is a business characterized by highly variable income," the report said, "it is recommended that the corporation be authorized to institute a system of variable payments under which a surplus above the average annual payment required would be collected in favorable years, and employed to reduce payments below the basic average in unfavorable years. Such a policy is now used by certain insurance companies.

"The traditional fixed annual payments have done much to nullify efforts of farmers to achieve permanent ownership, and thereby increased tenancy. Choice of methods of instituting variable payments should be left to the corporation to allow for differing conditions in the several sections of the country."

2½ Per Cent Interest Rate Asked

The committee proposed that indebtedness of purchasing tenants for farmstead acquisitions should be amortized at the same rate of interest as the government now pays on long-term bonds, or 2½ per cent. An additional quarter of 1 per cent would be required, to be placed in "a reserve fund," together with other amounts adequate to cover insurance and taxes on the properties bought.

Covered by contracts of sale to tenants would be requirements that they so farm the land as to hold erosion and other soil destroyers to a minimum. Under supervision to be supplied by the Federal agency enter into long-term leases "with involved, purchasing tenants also landlords who are willing to agree would be required to plant a speci- In all cases, however, the follow- fied area to provide food for home ing guide would be consumption. Every inducement to compensate the corporation at would be offered to make purchas- the termination of the lease for im- ing tenants as self-supporting as provements made on the property." possible.

To assure the greatest possible these farms be sublet to tenants protection of the soil, the Federal who, for various reasons, might not corporation would be empowered be prepared to set out on the road under the committee's proposals to

How Farmers Would Be Chosen

lands purchased by the corporation would be utilized in the tion."

Preference should be given to families already living on qualities.

Declaring that an estimated 500,000 farm families are now living on land "to poor to provide an adequate livelihood," the committee mainly to mem- recommended that as a part of the various categories of farm families se- recommended that as a part of the policy, the Federal Government begin the purchase of between 95,000,000 and 100,000,000 acres of submarginal land. It proposed that the basis of reputation industry, thrift, nec- essary experience, health and other

PROGRAM OFFERED TO SOLVE TENANCY ON 3,000,000 FARMS

MISERY PICTURED

President's Committee Urges Land Purchase by Federal Aid

40-YEAR PAYMENT PERIOD

Interest at 2½ Per Cent Plus Reserved Fund Proposed for Amortization Plan

SPECULATION CURB ASKED

Turnover Tax on Any Farm Held Less Than Three Years Suggested in the Report

By FELIX BELAIR Jr.
Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 11.—The special committee appointed by President Roosevelt to study farm tenancy completed its labors today after adopting a report calling his attention to the fact that fewer than half of the farmers of the nation own the land they operate and that "rural civilization is threatened with decadence."

Finding that nearly 3,000,000 farmers were living under conditions directly attributable to tenancy which "make them equally easy prey to economic and even political parasites," the President's committee, headed by Secretary Wallace, proposed legislation establishing a farm security administration built around the present Resettlement Administration and supplemented by a farm security corporation.

The committee proposed that the new agency be empowered to acquire farm lands and buildings, financed at the outset by regular appropriations by Congress, and to contract with present tenants for the purchase of such farmsteads over a forty-year period so that they would be secure in their tenure and immune to land speculation.

Aid the Farm Owners Urged

The report made no mention of the amount of money the program might require, but some members were of the opnilon that at least $10,000,000 a year should be provided.

The tenant-ownership program would be augumented, under the committee's proposals, by legislation to help farm owners avoid the loss of such farms, to provide ordinary housing and sanitary facilities for the army of migatory farm laborers, to safeguard civil liberties of tenants and to place definite curbs on land speculation.

To the latter end, it was proposed that Congress enact a form of windfall tax on the proceeds of land sales undertaken within three years of the time the land was first acquired by the seller.

The report mentioned that the Federal Reserve Board and the Farm Credit Administration were "well aware of the dangers" in overcapitalization of land resulting from widespread speculation, and were "in a strong position to insist that appraisals and loan policies be kept well below advances in price and current farm incomes until the degree of permanence in such advances can be determined."

Large Land Sale Tax Favored

But the committee was of the opinion that further restraint on land speculation was needed and in connection with the proposed tax of such sales said that "such a tax, taking a large percentage of the increment, would materially discourage buying land merely for the purpose of early resale, and would tend to keep land values on a level where farmers could better afford ownership."

"Special safeguards should prevent evasion through fictitious forms of ownership, and also prevent the tax working severe hardship in cases of unavoidable resale," the report said.

The report, adopted after several minor amendments, including one providing for the amortization of tenant sales contracts within twenty years at the option of purchasing tenants, is expected to be "boiled down" prior to its submission to the President, probably before the end of the week. It is also likely to be accompanied by at least two minority expressions representing views of members wh think the majority report went too far or not far enough.

Covering about eighty pages in its present form, the report went into every phase of the tenancy problem and the moral, mental, physical, social and economic results of the farming system, particularly that of the South.

Poverty Like Europe's Worst

"The extreme poverty of one-fifth to one-fourth of the farm population reflects itself in a standard of living below any level of decency," the report said. "In many areas, particularly in the South, families are living in conditions of poverty little, if any above the lowest peasantry of Europe.

"Large families of tenants or croppers, or hired farm laborers are living in houses of two or three rooms. The buildings are frequently of poor construction, out of alignment, weather-beaten and unsightly. The doors and windows are rarely screened. Often the roofs are leaky. The surroundings of such houses are bleak and unattractive.

"A large proportion of these submerged classes are undernourished. Their food is lacking in variety and in essentials for nutritional balance. Their bodies are easy prey to the ravages of disease: pellagra, malaria and the hookworm and other parasites exact heavy tolls in life and energy. Suitable provision for the maintenance of health and treatment of disease for these classes of families are lacking or inadequate in many localities.

"Clothing is often scarcely sufficient to afford protection to the body, much less to help maintain self-respect.

"Farm and city well-being are closely interrelated. ow standards of living in the country limit production in the city. The use which is made of America's industrial productive capacity in part depends on the purchasing power of agriculture. And the extent to which American industry is active in turn affects the capacity of the farm population to find more jobs for its people and markets for its products."

Basis of Legislation Sought

Whole sections of the report were devoted to a description of standards of life and living among the nation's tenantry and the effect of such conditions upon the country's greatest natural resource, the soil. These sections caused much of the debate among committee members that preceded adoption of the report, and they are expected to carry much weight in view of the President's instruction to prepare a report to serve as a basis for tenant and legislation.

"After families have been long subject to poverty, insecurity and lack of normal social contacts, they are likely to lose the incentive for improving their lot," said the committee, "let alone participating in the cultural life of the community. The deficiencies in standards of living which make their bodies easy prey to biological parasites make them equally easp prey to economic and even political parasites.

"When the rungs of the agricultural ladder become rigid bars between classes, degradation of institutions results—a process which penalizes the entire population. In a community of rigid groups normal democratic processes are unable to function. The committee has noted instances where disadvantaged groups in their attempts to organize and increase their bargaining power have been unlawfully prevented from exercising their civil liberties. These are but manifestations of a malignant social condition.

"With less than half of the farmers of the nation owning all the land they operate—and much of that subject to heavy debt—and with a rising tide of landless and land-hungry people, rural civilization is threatened with decadence."

No Class or Factor Blamed

The committee blamed no class or single factor for the alarming rate at which it said tenancy was on the increase. Landlord and tenant alike suffered financial and other losses, and yet each group was powerless to remedy a mutually unprofitable situation.

"Both classes have lost heavily from time to time through the instability and uncertainty of agricultural income and of land values," the report continued. "Landlords, as well as creditor agencies, have also been confronted with the problems arising from the ignorance, inertia, ineptitude and unreliability of many of the tenants, croppers and laborers with whom they have to deal.

"Although long-established institutional arrangements, particularly in the South have had much to do with creating and perpetuating these human disabilities, this explanation affords small comfort to the landlord or creditor, caught in the meshes of a system that has impoverished those who work the fields and, all too frequently, those who own them."

Citing the presence of more than t million farm families on relief rolls, where formerly they were self-supporting, the report said:

"They make it clear that unless the nation wishes to pay the money costs as well as the social costs of supporting a continuing heavy burden of rural dependency, it must put large numbers of farm families into a relationship to the land adequate to provide for their self-support."

Would Put Wallace in Charge

Because of the essential interdependence of a national tenant aid program upon the broader national policy of raising agricultural income generally to a point representing the fair share of farmers in the national income, the President's committee proposed that the entire tenant program be placed under the direction of Secretary Wallace.

It was recommended in the case of tenants desiring to buy farmsteads from the government that they undergo a trial period of five years, during which they could demonstrate conclusively their desire and ability to become owners. No initial payment would be required under the program recommended, and rates of payment on amortization would be determined by a fixed percentage of the farmer's income from crops. Thus his security of tenure would not be jeopardized by periods of low farm prices and consequent reduced income from which amortization payments might be made.

"Since farming is a business characterized by highly variable income," the report said, "it is recommended that the corporation be authorized to institute a system of variable payments under which a surplus above the average annual payment required would be collected in favorable years, and employed to reduce payments below the basic average in unfavorable years. Such a policy is now used by certain insurance companies.

"The traditional fixed annual payments have done much to nullify efforts of farmers to achieve permanent ownership, and thereby increased tenancy. Choice of methods of instituting variable payments should be left to the corporation to allow for differing conditions in the several sections of the country."

2½ Per Cent Interest Rate Asked

The committee proposed that indebtedness of purchasing tenants for farmstead acquisitions should be amortized at the same rate of interest as the government now pays on long-term bonds, or 2½ per cent. An additional quarter of 1 per cent would be required, to be placed in "a reserve fund," together with other amounts adequate to cover insurance and taxes on the properties bought.

Covered by contracts of sale to tenants would be requirements that they so farm the land as to hold erosion and other soil destroyers to a minimum. Under supervision to

Agriculture – 1937 II
Labor Conditions.

General

this land be acquired at the rate of from 2,000,000 to 5,000,000 acres a year until the total was in Federal possession.

State Legislation Suggested

Pointing out that when the farmers of poor land leave, others usually take their place, the committe observed that "in the long run the cost of such a policy includes lowered vitality, ignorance and crime, engendered by excessively low living standards among a class of our population characterized by high birth rates."

One of the principal contributing causes of land wastage under present land tenure conditions, the report said, was the lack of incentive to tenants to remain permanently on the land they farm for others or to make improvements during the period of tenure.

As a remedy a program of State action was proposed, designed to improve contractual relations between landlord and tenant through State legislation.

Leasing Controls Proposed

It was proposed the States concerned with the problem of tenancy undertake legislation providing that:

"(a) Agricultural leases shall be written.

"(b) All improvements made by the tenant and capable of removal shall be removable by him at the termination of the lease.

"(c) The landlord shall compensate the tenant for specified unexhausted improvements which he does not remove at the time of quitting the holding, provided that for certain types of improvements the prior consent of the landlord be obtained.

"(a), the tenant shall compensate the landlord for any deterioration or damage due to factors over which the tenant has control; and the landlord shall be empowered to prevent continuance of serious wastage;

"(e), adequate records shall be kept of outlays for which either will claim compensation;

"(f), agricultural leases shall be terminable by either party only after due notice given at least six months in advance;

"(g), after the first year payment shall be made for inconvenience or loss sustained by the other party by reason of termination of the lease;

"(h), the landlord's lien shall be limited during emergencies such as a serious crop failure or sudden fall of prices where rental payments are not based upon a sliding scale;

"(I) Renting a farm on which the dwelling does not meet certain minimum housing and sanitary standards shall be misdemeanors, although such requirements should be extremely moderate and limited to things primarily connected with health and sanitation such as sanitary outside toilets, screens, tight roofs and other reasonable stipulations;

(J) Landlord and tenant differences shall be settled by local boards of arbitration, composed of reasonable representatives of both landlords and tenants, whose decisions shall be subject to court review when considerable sums of money or problems of legal interpretation are involved."

SAVING SHARECROPPERS

By JOHN R. WHITING

TWO men traveled through the cotton belt a year ago and didn't like what they saw. They talked to sharecroppers who worked all year for $200, most of it in "furnish" from the planter's commissary—cornbread, molasses and sowbelly. They saw floorless, unpainted shacks. They watched half-naked children, black and white, undernourished, working in the fields. They saw violence against tenant farmers who tried to form a union. They called what they saw "economic slavery, feudalism, incipient fascism."

The two men were Sherwood Eddy, "social evangelist," Y. M. C. A. secretary and author, and Sam Franklin, his ex-missionary assistant who was born in Tennessee.

This month, as Congress considers the President's recommendations to establish better credit for the growing class of tenant farmers, the Delta Cooperative Farm at Hillhouse, Miss., is a year old. Thirty families of both races have been hard at work clearing timberland, planting cotton, building houses. Despite problems, fights and disappointments, they are better off than they were because of an experiment in self-help for sharecroppers, suggested by Southerners.

When the farm council at the year's end checked accounts with an auditor, they found the average Delta Farm family had earned $327.53. More specialized workers were paid more, unskilled laborers earned less. The average gain in buildings and possessions was $122.29.

The account books for the farm as a whole showed even more imposing gains. On an initial capital of $17,500 the first ten months' income from sale of cotton and lumber was $18,000—half net profit. Twenty houses had been built, besides a community building, a sawmill and sanitary improvements. The workers were in better health, more secure and able to plan ahead for their children's education.

IT was education that made the cooperative farm possible. When Mr. Eddy and Mr. Franklin became aroused last Winter over the plight of the sharecropper, they said to each other: "Let us stop talking and look for a farm where we can assist these people to save themselves."

Franklin began to look for property and Eddy started on a campaign of letter-writing, lecturing and asking liberal friends, church groups and social workers to contribute to a trust fund to set up the farm.

Part of the money had to be borrowed, fortunately at only 2½ per cent interest. Most planters are heavily in debt and pay 6 and 8 per cent interest, charging their tenants as high as 36 per cent for their advance "furnish."

A board of five trustees was organized to hold the property and organize the project. They were Mr. Eddy, Mr. Franklin, Reinhold Niebuhr (chairman), William R. Amberson and John Rust, co-inventor of the mechanical cotton picker. While Mr. Rust is abroad Bishop William Scarlett is serving as a trustee.

One of the first requirements set was that the farm succeed financially—it was not to be a charity project or have any similarity to the collapsing cotton tenancy in near-by Arkansas.

The farm was purchased on March 26, 1936. Franklin, with the checking of a land expert, a lawyer and a practical farmer, found a 2,138-acre tract at a bargain price of less than $5 an acre. It was good, rich "buckshot" black soil, and though it was already too late to plant some of the land in cotton, twenty-four families were moved on in short order. Some had been dispossessed from Arkansas farms, others had traveled long distances in rickety wagons or automobiles.

Work began on the farm. Timberland had to be cleared, a hundred acres of brush cut away, two tractors set to plowing furrows often a mile long. Some men spread fertilizer; some logged cypress, others built houses, planted cotton, corn and vegetables. It was like a settlement in pioneer days, with every one taking a hand. Some seasons the men had to get up at 3 o'clock in the morning.

AS the work of carving the farm from unsettled land progressed near-by planters looked on askance. Some were friendly, others warned the sponsors of the "shiftless, ignorant, worthless" types they were dealing with. The warnings proved true in some cases; the council voted to move three families off the farm, others were tempted away by offers of money or frightened by too hard work.

Among the problems that the directors faced were education health and religion. White children receive eight months schooling a year in the county, Negroes four and a half months. The farm is trying to adjust this, and at the same time provide night classes for adults.

The county health organization volunteered its services screening houses, installing force pumps and superintending the building of model concrete outbuildings. There is no doctor yet, but a cooperative medical service is planned and the Presbyterian Board of National Missions sent a trained nurse.

The main economic problem—making the farm work—depends, sponsors say, on the aims of cooperation to give the workers a share in what they produce and to save money for them on what they buy; and scientific, planned collective farming, so that more will be produced than by the old one-mule-and-a-man system.

For a small fee the directors got scientific advice from Dr. John R. Fain, head of the Department of Agronomy at the University of Georgia, and of a local farmer recommended by the Government Experiment Station. Crops are rotated on a planned basis and the variety will be increased, as will the livestock. Wild pecan trees by the thousands will be developed. Weaving and canning industries will be added this year. Instead of paying higher prices at the commissary, every member of Delta Farm last year received a dividend of 9 per cent on his purchases at the cooperative store.

As the cooperators pay back the capital to the trust fund, it is to be used to set up additional farms. The economy of this kind of advancement for sharecroppers appeals to the trustees, because where the Federal Government expects to pay $4,000 to $5,000 a family for rehabilitation it costs but $1,000 under the cooperative plan.

AAA WARNS OWNERS OF 'CROPPER' RIGHTS

Cobb Threatens to Cut Off Benefits Where Renters Are Forced to Laborer Status

CITES RISE IN COMPLAINTS

Some Landlords Believed to Be Shirking Responsibility of Off-Season Aid to Tenants

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

WASHINGTON, March 8.—Landlords of the cotton South were warned today by the Agricultural Adjustment Administration that any reduction in the economic status of their tenants would be met with cancellation of benefit payments otherwise due them under the soil conservation program. Acting on complaints from share-croppers and cash-renters that they were being reduced to wage hands or day laborers, Cully A. Cobb, head of the AAA Southern Division, issued a sharp warning.

It was assumed here that the landlords against whom the complaints were filed sought through this method to shirk the responsibility of "furnishing" tenants during the period when a crop is not being raised. Wage hands receive about $1 to $1.50 a day during the period of cultivation or picking, but after that are not privileged to remain on the property.

In another warning to all farmers participating in the AAA conservation program the agency reminded that "adapted" sees of clover and alfalfa were required in planting soil conserving crops if they were to qualify for the benefit payments offered by the program. Certain seed imported from abroad is not considered adaptable by the AAA and it has received reports of use of such seed in some sections.

In his letter to administrative officers in charge of the cotton program, Mr. Cobb said:

"This division has received in the last few weeks from the various States a number of complaints from both share-croppers and standing-rent tenants. These complaints are to the effect that the cropping arrangement on the farms on which they operated in 1936 has been changed by their landlords for the year 1937 and they are unable to operate this year as tenants with these landlords, even though they have made satisfactory settlement of their accounts for the year 1936 with such landlords.

"Every year at this season since 1934 a few letters of this nature have been received by this division. The increased number of such complaints received so far this year would indicate that there is a tendency on the part of some landlords to change the status of tenants in order to operate their farms in 1937 with wage-hands and day laborers."

The letter cited a regulation under which benefit payments may be canceled in the present situation.

FARMERS UNION WILL WIPE OUT FARM TENANCY

Unions Give Negroes Equality With All Others

HOUSTON.—Speaking here Monday in the interest of farmers' unions and cooperatives and against the system, which has fostered tenants and sharecroppers, Howard Kester, one of the leaders in the Farmers' Union, said that system must go. He said besides impoverishing the South, the system brutalized tenant, sharecropper and landlords. The peasant system lifts a few men into landlords and crushes millions of black and white families. Mr. Kester spoke in the Central YWCA auditorium.

He believes the remedy is united effort on the part of farmers such as village economy and village cooperatives .The Arkansas Union is the outgrowth of the second attempt of Southern farmers to organize—the first ended in the bloody riots of Elaine, Arkansas. Now, then, the beneficiaries of the tenant system are opposing the uniting of farmers. But this time Whites and Blacks are uniting together. Already the union has grown from 500 to 30,000, Mr. Kester said.

Negroes share fully in the management and direction, he says. Some of the best organizers are Negroes and the best reports are sent in by Negroes. He said when the question was raised as to whether there should be Negro unions and white unions, after great discussion, one old Negro of 70 years settled it with, "My people are in chains. Your people are in chains. Let's rise together!"

Speaking of the evils of the tenant system, Mr. Kester said the landlord owns the land, the teams, the comissary and everything else; some times even the tenant. The riding-boses are always armed and usually deputy sheriffs with the power of monarchs. The usual rate of interest charged tenants ranged from 10 percent to 25 percent. But in at least one instance he had known of a tenant being charged 90 percent interest.

The union seeks to get better wages for workers; get children out of the fields; get better homes and an outhouse for every home; to have tenants' accounts kept accurately, and to make it possible for tenants to have their cotton ginned where they want, instead of only at the landlord's gin. They also desire to have the state furnish text books for the school children. At present the union maintains close relationship with the State Department and has received much helpful cooperation from it. (Mr. Kester blames the AAA for the lost of the cotton market.)

Monday night Mr. Kester spoke on the subject: Does America Need a Labor Party?

He was not on as firm ground in his discussion of this subject. But he made the statement that there can be no freedom for whites in the South until there is freedom for the Negroes. He said the whites have held themselves back by withholding freedom from Negroes. He said political freedom hinges upon industrial freedom and the only possible solution is the inclusion of all in one great industrial union.

To his mind the most significant happenings in recent weeks were the strikes. They indicate that those at the bottom are in increasing numbers seeing possibilities of creative, free living and fighting for it. But city workers cannot attain full industrial freedom until the rural workers are organized and working in unison. Otherwise industrialists will be able to bring in workers from the farms to replace city strikers.

JAPANESE TEXTILES

In a careful and conservative appraisal of the recently concluded American-Japanese cotton textile understanding, Dr. Claudius T. Murchison, president of the Cotton Textile Institute, and a member of the recent American mission to Japan, emphasizing that the two-year agreement entered into with the Japanese textile executives will tend to bring security and stability to the industry in America, in place of the threat of destructive competition.

In demonstrating how vulnerable the American industry was from attack from the Far East, Dr. Murchison pointed out that in 1933 the Japanese were shipping to this country only about 1,000,000 yards of cloth annually; in 1934 shipments rose to approximately 16,000,000 yards; 1935 to 36,000,000, and 1936 approximately 75,000,000, with indications that 1937 imports might approximate 500,000,000 yards, Japanese bookings of American business for 1937 having reached 150,000,000 yards in three weeks of the new year.

The American mission had hoped to reach an understanding on the basis of an average of the importations for 1935 and 1936, which would have been approximately 55,500,000 yards, but since the American importers had already placed bookings for 150,000,000 yards the American representatives consented to a limitation of 155,000,000 for 1937 and with a limitation to 100,000,000 yards in 1938.

The splendid work of the textile commission was accomplished within ten days, and Dr. Murchison reports that the Japanese textile executives accepted the principle of quantity limitation as the fairest and most practicable method of regulating their textile trade with the United States, in view of the extraordinary cost differentials existing between the two countries. Discussing the understanding, Dr. Murchison says:

Through this two-year agreement both sides benefited to an extent which cannot be fully estimated. The American side now has security and stability where formerly there existed the threat of immeasurable competition. Incidentally, they are saved the expense, discomfort, misinterpretations, recriminations, bickerings and hazards involved in a campaign of political action looking to protection through legislation, or the exercise of executive powers. On their side the Japanese will have for two years a volume of business greatly in excess of any previous year in the American market. They are also freed from the danger of tariff increases or other forms of restrictive legislation so long as the agreement is effective. . . . In the aftermath of this new plan of control there are no wounded feelings, no attitudes of animosity, no incentives to retaliation, no residue of ill will.

It is impossible to estimate the importance of that last sentence quoted from Dr. Murchison's address. It means that the Japanese textile mills will continue to be the best customers for American cotton, and not seek to find raw material for the industry in other cotton-producing countries. In view of the good feeling engendered, they will probably increase their purchases of American staple.

During their sojourn in Japan the American commissioners visited many textile mills in that country, giving them a thorough inspection. Concerning which Dr. Murchison said:

We discovered that much of the information which has been fed to us in America is misinformation. . . . It is my judgment that in our competition with the Japanese textile industry we are not competing with labor exploitation or with lower living standards. It is much more correct to say that we are competing with a totally different mode of life, the elements of which are not comparable with those prevailing in America. In the relationship of our two industries, there is no just basis for recrimination, suspicion or deprecation.

One of the outstanding features of the success of this trade mission is that it points the way unmistakably to the method that should be observed in perfecting trade relations with industries of other nations where they come in conflict with ours. Arbitration should prevail. instead of ruinous competition

Agriculture - 1937
6
Labor Conditions.

General

Drifting North

From widely scattered areas of the South comes a plaint, louder of late, that a shortage of cotton field hands endangers picking of the cotton crop. Bolls burst quickly in the hot September sun; in some areas pickers, this year far fewer in number, must work double-quick to keep up with the gin.

For what has long been the most reliable source of field labor is steadily being drained from the South. The negro, no longer satisfied with his lot is emigrating to other and more populous areas in increasing numbers. The negro population drift has been more marked than many persons realize. Four Southern States—Virginia, South Carolina, Georgia and Kentucky—have shown an absolute decrease. On the other hand, Michigan, for instance, has had a gain of 182 per cent, Wisconsin 106 per cent and New York 108 per cent. In the Middle West four large cities have increased their negro populations by 200 per cent from 1920 to 1930, while no Southern cities with the exception of Chattanooga and Miami recorded any sizeable gain.

9-28-37

The change in the negro's economic status has been more marked since the last census was taken than it was before that time. There is a lack of available figures to help throw a needed light on the situation. But take the matter of immigration alone. From the turn of the century down to the World War an average of close to a million immigrants a year entered the United States. From 1914 to 1930 immigration averaged in the neighborhood of 300,000 a year. Since 1930 the average has been approximately 238,000 annually.

This situation has had a decided bearing on the demand for negro labor; and the bearing would have been marked if the times had been at all normal. The country between the ending of the World War and the crash in 1929 absorbed in some fashion some three million persons, a great part of them presumably laborers, who came here from other lands. Between 1900 and the outbreak of the World War it absorbed, again in some fashion, in the neighborhood of fifteen million foreigners.

Many of these immigrants were brought here for the purpose of providing cheap labor. True, our industry was expanding faster than our own labor supply could meet the demands. But an effect of immigration was to keep negro labor cheaper than it might otherwise have been. An effect of the stopping of immigration has been to create a demand for negro labor in other parts of the country than the South.

That is one phase of the picture, affording some explanation of the migration that is in progress. The picture, nevertheless, has other sides. Agricultural acreage, especially cotton acreage, has been drastically reduced. That reduces the demand for negro labor in the field in which that demand has been most insistent in the past. There is a shortage now of negro labor for cotton picking; but it always took three or four persons to pick the cotton one plowhand could cultivate. That was the explanatin of the surplus negro population on the land in the South. A basic weakness of cotton has ever been the fact that for a great part of the time many of those engaged in cotton farming were idle.

One of the major problems which will be raised in the South by the minimum wage law that Congress is going to enact will be the effects of this law on negro employment. What these effects will be we do not now pretend to forecast. We have not studied the matter sufficiently. They may well be far-reaching and the assumption that they will be healthy would be extremely rash.—Asheville Citizen.

Agriculture - 1937
6
Labor Conditions.

General

FARM TENANT REPORT ASKS PLEDGE OF CIVIL LIBERTIES; ROOSEVELT PLANS MESSAGE

OUTBREAKS NOTED

June 2-13-37

Guarantee by States of Right of Assembly Is Asked as Remedy

New York Times

OWNERS' CASE IS ADMITTED

Creation of Arbitration Committees to Settle Disputes Is Recommended

PRESIDENT WILL ACT SOON

But He Does Not Commit Himself on Findings—Wallace Active in Proceedings

By FELIX BELAIR JR.

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 12.—Creation of committees of arbitration to intervene and settle disputes between landlords and tenants "for the protection of the interests of both classes" and "to promote better relationships" was recommended to President Roosevelt in the report of his Special Committee on Farm Tenancy, which yesterday concluded its work with far-reaching proposals for financing present tenants in eventual farm ownership.

The committee viewed with some concern the alleged abridgement of civil liberties of tenant classes, and proposed as a partial remedy that the States should "guarantee to these groups to enforce the rights of peaceful assembly and of organization to achieve their legitimate objectives."

To the same end it was recommended that States should repeal laws making it a misdemeanor for tenants to quit a contract while in debt to landlords, "since such laws abridge civil liberties of tenants and tend to nullify Federal peonage acts."

Congress Will Get Message

Without committing himself on the report, President Roosevelt said he would send to Congress in the near future a message outlining his views on legislation embodying a broad program for encouraging farm ownership by tenants, protecting the status of present farm owners and curbing excessive land speculation as a contributory cause to tenancy.

Meanwhile, it was disclosed that Secretary Wallace had been indirectly responsible for the vigorous tone of the findings. The Secretary had intervened to prevent submission of a report to the President prior to presenting it for approval by the group he had appointed to report on the situation.

Several members of the committee had planned to report without giving the larger group an opportunity to express its views. Mr. Wallace insisted on "the democratic process."

O'Neal and Taylor Outvoted

Also revealed today in the wake of publication of the report in THE NEW YORK TIMES was the fact that a controversial section dealing with abridgement of civil liberties had been adopted only after a lively debate by Edward A. O'Neal, head of the American Farm Bureau Federation, and Henry C. Taylor, director of the Farm Foundation.

Mr. O'Neal, according to officials, moved that the section be stricken. But in a standing vote Messrs. O'Neal and Taylor were a minority. Strong support was accorded to the section by several members from the Southern States.

A native Alabaman, Mr. O'Neal supported a section calling for a continuation of rural rehabilitation loans by the Resettlement Administration.

Right of Assembly Urged

Of the relations between landlords and tenants, the report, with apparent reference to the situation in the South, said:

"Within the last few years tenants, croppers and farm laborers have organized to increase their bargaining power. Members of these organizations assert that they have been frequently denied the rights of peaceful assembly guaranteed them under the Constitution. They assert further that they have been subjected to physical violence and that some have been forced to flee for their lives.

"We have not had opportunity to investigate these charges at first hand, but frequent press reports of violence in some areas where croppers or migratory laborers make up a considerable proportion of the rural population indicate that such assertions cannot be ignored. A Federal commission, appointed to investigate conditions among migratory laborers in the Imperial Valley, found substantiating evidence of such practices.

"The committee strongly recommends that States guarantee to these groups to enforce the rights of peaceful assembly and of organization to achieve their legitimate objectives.

"It also recommends repeal of State laws which make it a misdemeanor to quit a contract while in debt, since such laws abridge civil liberties of tenants and tend to nullify Federal peonage acts.

"In making these recommendations, however, the committee is not unaware that in many cases landlords and employers, as well as farm tenants, croppers and laborers, have grievances.

Federal Action Called Essential

"Among disadvantaged groups there are not a few irresponsible individuals who have neither a responsible attitude in the fulfillment of their obligations, nor any property that can be attached for non-fulfillment. For the protection of the interests of both classes, it is recommended that the committees of arbitration suggested above be called upon to settle disputes and promote better relationships.

"In a nation composed of forty-eight States, the Federal Government necessarily must play an important rôle in aiding and encouraging State action. Such assistance is vital, if reasonable unanimity and uniformity are to be achieved in the development of adequate programs for land reforms."

The committee had proposed that the tenancy program be carried out through a Farm Security Administration, supplemented by a Farm Security Corporation.

"The committee recommends, therefore," the report continued, "that the Farm Security Administration, be given authority and necessary funds to enable it to aid State governments in drafting proper regulatory measures regarding tenant contracts and to stimulate and cooperate in State research and extension work aimed at improving lease contracts."

Education Is Recommended

Among remedies, education could do much.

"Large numbers of farm families are severely handicapped by debilitating diseases, malnutrition and morbidity," the report added. "Much so-called laziness and shiftlessness trace back to a low level of vitality and the resulting mental habits and attitudes. No fundamental attack on the problem of the disadvantaged classes of farmers would be complete without inclusion of measures to improve their general level of health.

"To a large extent this is a matter of education in improved dietary practices and personal hygiene supplemented by more adequate medical service, and more ample provisions of clinics and public health nursing."

The committee preferred to leave to educational specialists the questions as to the proper contribution of the Federal Government.

Conditions of tenancy were condemned as unsatisfactory to both tenant and landlord, and as a tragedy, particularly in the South where nearly two-thirds of the tenants and share-croppers live. The problem "is not merely a race problem, for of these Southern tenants and croppers, two-thirds are whites and one-third are Negroes."

Land Policy Called Defective

Declaring that sharecroppers operate 716,000 farms, or 10 per cent of all farms in the United States, and constitute 39 per cent of all tenants in the South, causing in many sections "unrest and bitter conflict," the report said:

"The land policy adopted by this country, under which title to practically all of the agricultural land of the nation passed to private owners in fee simple absolute, has proved defective as a means of keeping the land in the ownership of those who work it. Fee simple ownership has also implied that the right to unrestricted use was also a right to abuse of the land.

"Tenancy has increased from 25 per cent of all farmers in 1880 to 42 per cent in 1935.

"The actual equity of operating owners is far less than these figures indicate, for their farms in the great majority of casts are burdened with heavy debts. In some of our States, among them a number settled under the homestead system little more than a generation ago, it is estimated that the equity of operating farmers in their lands is little more than one-fifth; nearly four-fifths is in the hands of landlords and mortgage holders.

Dream 'Proven a Delusion'

"Thus, for hundreds of thousands of farm families who have attained a semblance of ownership, realization of their dream has proven a delusion.

"After years of effort to retain their foothold as farm owners, they find themselves poorer for the struggle. At the same time hundreds of thousands of tenant farmers, in spite of years of scrimping, haven't been able to accumulate enough to make a first payment on a farm of their own.

"And a further large segment of the farm population has never reached a stage of economic advancement where its members could even aspire to farm ownership; they form an economically and socially submerged group for whom the phrase farm security has almost lost its content."

In Washington With GEORGE MORRIS

For Rural Schools

WASHINGTON, Feb. 12.—The administration certainly should not overlook the obligation to throw all the influence of which it is capable behind the bill introduced by Senator Harrison of Mississippi and Senator Black of Alabama to assist the states in providing more effective programs of education. The bill fits in so perfectly with the policies for which the administration stands that it might easily be adopted as a major feature of the program. Briefly the bill provides an appropriation of $10,000,000 annually to the states, to be increased by $50,000,000 each fiscal year, with the proviso that the appropriation shall not exceed $300,000,000 for any one year.

THE ADMINISTRATION is on record as favoring "the more abundant life," which, translated into practical terms of everyday experi-

ence, means elevation of tenants into the status of landowners, increased wages, shorter hours, opportunity for wholesome recreation, security in old age, following regular employment during the years of productivity, and a higher standard of living. It is apparent that the vast majority of tenants are in that position as a result of lack of initiative to better themselves; that wages cannot be increased automatically unless there is improved capacity for turning out more work, and that the answer, in part, to shorter hours is ability of the worker to perform a better job.

WHILE it is generally admitted that the lower standards of living should be raised, it is also obvious that the first step toward that desirable end is inculcation of appreciation of the better things of life. The administration and the Congress have indicated a generous attitude toward the underprivileged. Money has been appropriated by millions for agricultural rehabilitation and low rental projects for desirable homes in industrial centers. The one thing that has been neglected is preparation of those for whom the government has manifested commendable concern and a positive determination to improve their status.

IN MOST INSTANCES it is futile to elevate a tenant into a landowner unless preparation has been made in advance to assume the new responsibility. Those who have been accustomed to living in houses without the ordinary conveniences will hardly change their outlook entirely by the simple process of changing their environment. Desirable as increased wages are, it is equally desirable to fit the wage earner to utilize the enhanced income advantageously. Leisure is advantageous only to those fitted to employ it wisely.

EDUCATION is naturally the foundation for what the administration desires for the "forgotten man." Under the provision of the bill introduced by Senators Harrison and Black, no state would be eligible for its share of the appropriation, after the first allotment, unless it has a uniform school term of 160 days, or eight months, barring epidemics or disasters over which there is no control. The money appropriated would be divided among the states on the basis of the population between the ages of five and 20.

THE REASON for making the division according to scholastic population, instead of total population, emphasizes the need of federal aid for education in this direction, and the National Education Association shows how inequitable it would be to apportion it on any other basis. New York, the association shows, spends $124.32 on each child enrolled in secondary and elementary schools, while Mississippi spends $18.93. To divide the appropriation on a basis of total population would give New York an exceedingly large amount and Mississippi would receive a relatively small amount. Based on scholastic population, New York, and other populous states, would still receive large sums, but the states whose population is almost entirely rural and the emergency greater, would receive a higher percentage.

FURTHERMORE, the problem of education is not so acute in states with large cities from which to draw financial aid, while the poorer states have only their own limited community resources to draw upon. It is interesting to observe, also, that the ratio of children of school age to adults varies inversely with the ability to provide schools for them. In some states the number of persons of 60 is three times the number of a given school age. Those states are able to provide adequate educational facilities. In the poorer states, and where the rate of illiteracy is highest, the number of persons of a given school age is about equal to those of 60.

IN OTHER WORDS, the higher the percentage rate of school age population, the poorer the people, the higher the illiteracy rate, and the less able are states where those conditions exist to make adequate provision for education. The administration has made tenancy, sweatshop employment and other problems of the underprivileged a national problem and set itself to the task of raising the average standard of living. Education might well be adopted as a national responsibility, along with the control of flood and drouth and disaster, for without education of the masses there is little permanency to build upon.

CROPPER APPROVES TENANCY PROGRAM

But Wynne Farmer Offers Minority Report

SEES BENEFIT TO GROUP

Right of Peaceful Assembly Important—Indorses Health, Education Supervision Features

WASHINGTON, Feb. 15.—(AP)—W. L. Blackstone, tenant farmer, who served on President Roosevelt's tenancy commission, said today the longtime national program the group approved "would do a lot of good for my kind of people."

The mild-mannered 50-year-old man who has "been a cotton cropper for 40 years," said he had filed a "minority report," although he approved most of the commission's suggestions. The tenancy report is scheduled to reach the White House this week.

"I don't know as I did any good at the closed meetings," he said, before starting back for Wynne, Ark. "This majority report of the committee did not go far enough. Course, I realize you can't get everything done in a day."

Mr. Blackstone said "one of the most important things in the report is about the right to peacefully assemble. That is important to lots of tenants and croppers."

Wants Federal Aid

He said he hoped the federal government, "rather than state or county employes," would administer reforms, because "there are lots of tenants and croppers who have lost their respect for the local governments."

Mr. Blackstone said proposals for wide education, health programs and supervision in the tenancy program would enable "tenants to live better, if it is really carried out."

He also lauded provisions for a "windfall tax" intended to discourage quick profits from land speculation and longtime purchase contracts and leases.

"If I was doing this," he said, "I would make it take 140 years to buy a farm, just so a family could be sure of a place to live and work."

Mr. Blackstone said his minority report suggested the program be administered by an independent agency rather than placed under the agriculture department, as suggested by the majority of the committee.

Sees Domination

The majority report contended the federal agriculture department was "dominated by the rich and large land owning class of farmers and political pressure lobbies."

It also contended that tenants and croppers had been unable to get a "fair share" of benefit payments under administration farm programs.

Mr. Blackstone said he had worked an 80-acre cotton farm near Wynne, was the father of 10 children, 9 of whom are at home, and serves as a lay preacher Sundays for the Missionary Baptist Church.

"I couldn't make any crop last year because I couldn't get any land," he said. Mr. Blackstone said he had done "odd jobs" and served as an organizer for a tenants' union recently.

TENANT-FARM PROBLEM

The problem of farm tenancy is not only formidable in size but many-sided. That is why no blanket judgment is possible regarding the recommendations now made by the special committee appointed by President ROOSEVELT to study the subject. The committee begins by outlining existing conditions. It finds that in many areas, particularly in the South, "families are living "in conditions of poverty little, if "any, above the lowest peasantry of "Europe." Because of the extent of tenantry, "rural civilization is threatened with decadence." The committee proposes that a governmental agency be empowered to acquire farmlands and allow present tenants to purchase them over a forty-year period. A sliding scale of payments would be arranged: larger in favorable farm years, lower in poor years. Indebtedness of purchasing tenants would be amortized at the same rate of interest as the Government now pays on long-term bonds, or 2½ per cent. The committee recommends also that the Government should purchase and retire, at the rate of 2,000,000 to 5,000,000 acres a year, between 95,000,000 and 100,000,000 acres of land "too poor to provide an adequate livelihood" for anybody. For the rest, it recognizes that landlord-tenant relations are a matter of State law, and it urges that the States revise their laws to provide, among other things, that agricultural leases should be written documents, and that renting a farm which does not provide for certain minimum needs, such as sanitary outside toilets, screens and tight roofs, should be made a misdemeanor.

These recommendations deserve to be carefully considered. It should be kept in mind, however, that the real problem is not farm tenancy but farm poverty. A prosperous farm tenant is considerably less of a problem than a farm owner living in misery. In most of the Southern States, where the proportion of tenancy is large, a majority of the tenant farmers would still be living in the lowest sort of poverty even if they were given the farms they operate as a present. The main difficulty here is not the tenant system but the smallness of the farms, their low yield and the one-crop system. For the Government to buy up and retire "submarginal" land would take care of one problem only to create another. Farmers operate these submarginal lands only because, meager as the living they get may be, it seems better than what they can earn in some other way. If the Government deprives them of this land, it assumes the obligation of providing them with a better living at something else.

SELF-INSULT—Many a Southerner here stiffened when news leaked out that Mr. Roosevelt's farm tenancy report invited Southern States to observe the Constitution. The line it contained about the denial of the right of free assemblage to share-croppers sounded to them like a familiar left wing campaign speech.

The President's special committee fought bitterly over the insertion of this generalized insult. Names of committeemen who opposed it were given out, but no one named the committeeman who sponsored it.

The anonymous author seems to have been an assistant in the Resettlement Administration, Brooke Hays. That is not surprising in view of the fact that none but impassioned crusaders are allowed in that Government bureau. But what is surprising is that he informed the committee he was speaking as a representative of the governor of a Southern State, Gov. Carl E. Bailey, of Arkansas.

Agriculture—1937
Labor Conditions.

General

WANT SHARECROPPERS TO GET WRITTEN CONTRACTS

BIRMINGHAM, April 22—(ANP)—Written contracts between landlord and tenant farmer or sharecropper, replacing oral ones common in the South, is a major goal of the Alabama Farmers union, which has just merged with the Sharecroppers Union, according to Clyde Johnson, white, secretary.

The proposed agreement would prevent seizure of a sharecropper's personal property in cases where crop failures prevent the cropper's repaying landlord's cash advances, and would also assure the tenant of cash wages at a daily rate for any work performed off the sharecropper's share of the land.

A written accounting of the profits of the crop and permission of the tenant to sell his share of the cotton or cotton seed are other provisions of those contracts which sharecroppers are urged to use.

KESTER DENOUNCES PLANTERS' TERROR, URGES NEGRO-WHITE UNITY

AUSTIN, Tex.—The most crucial situation confronting the Southern sharecroppers, is what will become of them, Howard Kester, organizer for the Southern Tenant Farmers Union, stated here in an address sponsored by the Austin Open Forum.

President Roosevelt's farm tenantry plan has been characterised by the union as "inadequate" because it will not lift the cultural and economic level of these people, he declared. A few men would be raised to the status of landowners, but the majority of these people would be left in the same plight as before, Mr. Kester asserted, adding that the village or cooperative plan has been recommended by the union as being the only sensible plan by which the cultural and economic status of the sharecroppers can be lifted.

Terrorism against the sharecroppers, instigated by the landlords, planters and deputy sheriffs, was explained by Mr. Kester as something that may be expected when oppressed men go in opposition to their political and economic bosses.

"The time has come to recognize that the Negro is our brother," he said, "and that we cannot continue to reject him. To do so is to condemn our own children and make their's a life much more hideous than the one we know today."

Change In Measure Is "Vicious"

Migrant Farm Labor Pictured As Being Exploited

SEEK PROTECTION

Special to Journal and Guide

WASHINGTON, D. C. — The amendment placed in the Emergency Relief appropriation bill, during its consideration in the House two weeks ago, by Fritz G. Lanham, representative from the twelfth congressional district of Texas, in the opinion of many labor leaders and social workers, is against to the best interests of Negro agricultural laborers and paves the way for vicious exploitation. Cases in point are being cited.

LANHAM AMENDMENT

The amendment reads: " . . . No agricultural laborer and no unskilled laborer who refuses or has refused an offer of private employment paying as much or more in compensation for such work as such person has received or could receive under the relief herein provided, and who is capable of performing such work, shall be eligible for relief work hereafter for the period of such private employment or any similar subsequent offer of such employment."

It is feared that this amendment leaves the field wide open for exploitation of a most vicious type that would undoubtedly hit Negro agricultural and unskilled laborers first and hardest.

ACTION URGED

Members of the race are being urged to take steps immediately to set it aside, or have it changed to include mention of hours and conidtions of work as well as wages when it comes up for consideration shortly in the Senate.

As the amendment stands it would be possible for "chiseling" employers to insist that WPA workers be cut off from their subsistence employment to take private work simply by offering a salary higher than the approved subsistence level, with no consideration for hours of work or of working conditions.

EXPLOITATION CITED

An example of what is in prospect if the Lanham Amendment is allowed to stand is gleaned from a report in the New York Times a few days ago which reported that "unable to meet the wage scales of governmental relief agencies, potato growers of Nassau and Suffolk Counties, Long Island, are bringing in bus-loads of Negro labor from the South to relieve an acute labor shortage.

"The top wage offered the Negroes is $2 a day, but some are receiving $9 a week for a 12-hour day. All must pay their bus fare out of wages. The bus fare from their homes in Florida is about $17."

"The farmers complain that many persons who have received relief wages are no longer satisfied to work at the rates the farms are able to pay . . . Joseph N. Walsh, Bethpage farmer and president of the Farmers and Gardners Association, said the members of that organization found it impossible to compete with Federal, State, and county relief organizations offering daily wages of $3 to $4.50."

WPA PRAISED

Sponsors of the campaign to have the Lanham amendment revised point out that the Works Progress Administration has probeing made by Congressman Arthur W. Mitchell of Illinois, lone Negro representative, and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Protests against the racial change in the command of the station have come from both white and colored people, and a petition circulated in Dare County, in which the station is located, has been signed by leading citizens of both races.

Included among the signees are the sheriff of the county, the chairman of the county board of commissioners, register of deeds, court clerk, tax supervisor, tax accountant, merchants, professional men, and educators.

TO VISIT STATION

Mr. Mitchell, it is understood, will visit the station this weekend for a first-hand study of the situation. He held several conferences the past weekend with interested parties and Coast Guard officials, including the commandant of the service.

It was further learned that the transfer of the white officer, now at Fire Island Station, New York, would be regarded as temporary pending developments in the matter, and that this concession was won by Mr. Mitchell, who promised to take the matter to the President directly if his investigation warranted it.

Mr. Mitchell took the position that he would not favor jim-crowing Negroes into one station of the service, but he would fight for the retaention of the crew and officer-in-charge on the grounds that its loss would be a distinct racial setback and saving of the station setup provides a foothold in the service through which larger opportunities can be won.

NAACP ACTIVE

The NAACP took an immediate interest in the case and at once took steps to convince officials of the injustice of the action, and is still exerting pressure to prevent a permanent racial change in command and personnel.

It has been learned that no charges had been formally placed against the station's crew and officer in charge, Capt. George E. Pruden. It is generally known that the station is regarded as one of the best in the service and maintains a fine record.

However, inquiry revealed that a few weeks ago a Coast Guard officer was sent to the station secretly and reported several so-called irregularities. No warning concerning them, was sent the station, nor has an opportunity been granted for a hearing on them.

DOUBT CHARGES

Persons interested in the matter hold that these are virtually trumped up complaints to justify the change in command and probably a change in personnel.

At the time of the visit of this officer, incognito, Capt. Pruden was confined by illness. He has a crew of nine men at the station four of them with long and honorable records. The others have been in the service only a relatively short time.

One complaint, it was learned from several sources, is that when Negro and white persons go to the station for any reaso "they are treated alike." A prominent Dare County white man has been heard to say that fact was being held against the station in some quarters.

NEW MAN COMING

Efforts to enlist the aid of Congressman Lindsay Warren who represents the district in which the station is located, were unsuccessful on the weekend, as he was out of the city. Certain high Coast Guard officials are known to oppose the putting of a white man in charge, off the record.

It was impossible, up to midweek, to have the new officer's transfer to Pea Island station held up, but efforts will me made to have him removed to another station later and either put Capt. Pruden or another member of the present crew back in charge.

The white officer in-charge ordered to the station is understood to be Boatswain P. S. Midgett, a native of the vicinity of the station, and a rela-

tive of the officer in charge at another station a few miles away. His new post is naturally attractive to him.

AN ECONOMIC FACTOR

A factor in the situation is this: thirteen stations in the seventh Coast Guard district have been, or will soon be, decommissioned and there is a scarcity of good locations for those of the decommissioned stations to go. Pea Island may be the goat, if present efforts fail.

Capt. Pruden has been in the service for over 20 years, and has been officer-in-charge for over ten years. He has an unblemished record for efficiency and courtesy and has been cited for heroism in the execution of duty, along with his crew.

Interested persons and organizations may help save the station for the race, by wiring their congressman and senators, and the Coast Guard headquarters in Washington.

Several previous efforts to send white officers-in-charge to Pea Island Station have been blocked, it is understood. On each previous occasion white people and Negroes joined hands in retaining this lone Coast Guard shore station opportunity open to Negroes.

Centre, Ala., Coosa River News
July 30, 1937

Today And Tomorrow

By Frank Parker Stockbridge

A FEW weeks ago I visited a typical Southern plantation and had a chance to learn how the Negro employees were treated. There thirty families employed the year 'round on this ten-thousand acre tract, with extra help at cottonpicking and harvest times. The head of each family is paid $30 a month. They get living quarters and fuel free, and all they want of the foodstuffs grown on the place. Most of the cabins have gardens and flocks of poultry. The Negroes have their own community center or "jook where they have their dances and social affairs. In case of illness, they get free medical care.

How many Northern white workers, I wonder, have $30 a month left after paying rent, food and doctor's bills? Not many. In addition, the women and older children are given chance on the plantation to earn extra money at picking time. The Negro foreman gets $50 a month and better quarters.

I was reminded of what Booker T. Washington, the great Negro educator, said to me years ago. "The best friend of the Southern Negro is the Southern white man."

Cape Charles, Virginia, Times
July 29, 1937

NEGROES ---------- Southern boons

few weeks ago I visited a typical Southern plantation and had a chance to learn how the Negro employees were treated. There are thirty families employed the year 'round on this ten-thousand acre tract, with extra held at cottonpicking and harvest times. The head of each family is paid $30 a month. They get living quarters and fuel free, and all they want of the food-stuffs grown on the place. Most of the cabins have gardens and flocks of poultry. The Negroes have their own community center or "jook" where they have their dances and social affairs. In case of illness they get free medical care.

How many Northern white workers, I wonder, have $30 a month left after paying rent, food and doctor's bills? Not many. In addition, the women and older children are given first chance on this plantation to earn extra money at picking time. The Negro foremen get $50 a month and better quarters.

I was reminded of what Booker T Washington, the great Negro educator, said to me years ago. "The best friend of the Southern Negro is the Southern white man."

Trends Indicate Farm Wages Are Due For Seasonal Rise

By L. O. BRACKEEN

AUBURN, ALA., Aug. 19.—A further advance in farm wage rates during the next 12 months would be expected from the experience of past years, according to R. F. Hale and J. B. Shepard, of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, in pointing out that farm wage rates usually have risen gradually in response to increases in the prices of farm products and to increases in farm incomes. Wage rates have not yet fully reflected the advance in farm prices and incomes in the last few years, they say.

Wage rates paid by farmers on July 1 were still low in comparison with prices received for farm products, although they were about 14 per cent above rates paid at the same season last year.

"Wage rates paid by farmers have not, as a rule, changed simultaneously with prices of farm products during the last 25 years," it is stated, "but have tended to respond more slowly to changes in economic conditions. A moderate increase in prices, however, has usually been followed by an upturn in farm wage rates from six months to a year later."

Except for seasonal variation, the trend of farm wages has been continuously upward for four years. The rate of increase shows no sign of slackening, and farm wage rates are now 58 per cent higher than in July, 1933. Unless a general decline in farm prices should occur, the farm economists expect the following factors to cause a further increase in farm wage rates:

(1) Farm wage rates are still relatively low when compared with either the prices of farm products or the incomes of farmers; (2) Judged by predepression standards, farm wages are still low compared with wage rates of non-agricultural occupations; (3) The increase in crop production, as compared with recent years, will tend to increase the amount of labor required on the farms; (4) Purchases of labor-saving farm machinery have increased markedly, making for an increase in the productivity of labor and tending to prevent substitution of unskilled for skilled labor; (5) The increase in industrial employment has drawn much of the surplus labor away from agricultural areas and is beginning to draw men and boys away from the less efficient farms.

Anderson, S. C., Independent Trib
August 18, 1937

ISSUES PLEA FOR DIXIE'S TENANTS

Missionary Leader From Southern States Is Heard At Annual Chatauqua Missions Meeting Is Opened.

CHAUTAUQUA, N. Y., Aug. 17—(AP)—A missionary leader from the country's southern states opened Chautauqua's annual world missions institute today with a plea that the federal government peg cotton prices and give sharecroppers "a chance to live."

"The house in which a typical sharecropper dwells is poorer than the quarters of most registered cattle," said Dr. Arthur Raper, research secretary of the southern states' interracial committee.

"Ninety per cent of the farming population in the lower Mississippi valley are sharecroppers—landless farmers," he said.

"They are a great class of forgotten men—deprived economically of living, politically of voting, and religiously of church membership."

Dr. Raper expressed a belief that southerners have forgotten all about state's rights—for which they once seceded from the nation and precipitated the Civil war.

"The south wants protection for her big crop—cotton," he said. "The south knows it cannot be done by state legislation.

"The south knows the approach must be on national and international terms."

"Sharecrop farmers average only $250 a year actual income, and that is cut to $175 by high interest and higher credit charges on goods," Dr. Raper said.

Agriculture - 1937
Labor Conditions.

General.

THE SOUTH TODAY

The Future of Cotton Tenacy
A Discussion in Two Parts: Part 1

By ARTHUR RAPER

(Copyright, 1936, by Southern Newspaper Syndicate)

Editor's Note: Arthur Raper, professor of sociology at Agnes Scott College, and research secretary of the Commission on Interracial Co-operation, is author of "Preface to Peasantry," a sociological survey of the tenant farmer situation published last year, and considered by many the most comprehensive work on this subject ever written.

A further discussion of this problem, written by William Johnson, of the Little Rock (Ark.) Democrat, will appear in this column next Sunday.

Broadly speaking, the cotton South is divided into uplands, river bottoms, coastal plains and the new Southwest. The cotton plantation crescent, stretching from eastern Virginia to western Texas, includes the best farm lands of the region. Here on the richest soil live the South's poorest and most completely dependent people—the cotton tenants.

That the vast majority of the tenant families of the South have a very low plane of living is shown by the houses they live in, the clothes they wear, the food they eat, the dietary diseases they suffer from, the narcotives and patent medicines they rely upon, the crude equipment they farm with, the low incomes they have and the high rates of interest they pay.

Often without "Sunday clothes" and seldom having money for the collection plate, tenant farmers are not comfortable in church. Moreover, church leaders reach out for them but hesitantly. In the field of public education, the tenant children are handicapped by inadequate clothing and, in most states, by the absence of free textbooks. Some children are kept in the cotton fields by landlords, some are kept at home by parents to do family chores.

Cash Crops a Necessity.

The roots of cotton tenancy strike deep in Southern life. The plantation system's debt structure has made cash crops a necessity. The poor balance between urban and rural economy in recent decades has virtually forced the plantation owners to increase their cash earnings, lest they lose their lands to urban creditors. Furthermore, the white people of the South have kept the Negroes landless, the better to keep them dependent and servile. Yet the 1935 census showed that 1,200,000 of the South's 1,831,000 landless families were white. Thus the tenancy system, which has held the Negro "in his place," now penalizes nearly twice as many white as Negro families.

The tenants, whether white or Negro, have not shared in the financial risk of cotton plantation farming simply because the system did not train and would not permit them to accumulate property and exercise responsibility. In view of the fact that the cotton tenants are held by economic and cultural forces, in their disinherited condition on the richest lands of the South, it is not surprising that many of them are improvident, that they often fail to report for work when expected, that they are relatively unproductive and that they frequently make careless use of what little money and provisions they get. Neither is it surprising that a plantation system which exacts high rates of interest from labor and which is so sadly lacking in economic and cultural motivation and so unproductive, should mine the soil of its fertility, should be subjected to frequent bankruptcies and should subject those who control it to the unending tedium of supervising propertyless families made and kept childlike.

So long as the South had virgin soil and a world monopoly in the production of cotton, this plantation system could remain intact. But its doom became inevitable when other countries, began to produce cotton by the millions of bales. The old cotton plantation is now shaken by forces from without and from within. What is in store for the landless millions on the South's cotton plantations?

* * *

The Vital Need

The churches can increase their mission work, the health agencies can establish new clinics, the relief organizations can give assistance to additional families. Such salvaging work should not be neglected, but the fundamental need is for the improvement of the chronically inadequate economic and social conditions from which the acute individual cases result.

Unless a definite program of rehabilitation is put into effect, there is every reason to expect that the emergence of large-scale mechanized farms in the most fertile areas of the South will create a type of peasantry in the hilly and less fertile sections. Men working by hand and with one-horse plows on the productive fields cannot compete with power-driven machines on fertile plains. If the plantation is revitalized by mechanization, the number of people employed will decrease and the living standards of most of those still employed will not be materially raised, unless there is a more fundamental change in the plantation philosophy than mere mechanization will effect. On the other hand, the population pressure on the poorer land will tend to increase, leaving the people there no alternative but the adoption of a self-sufficient farm economy—producing little, selling little, buying little. Consequently, for the mass of cotton tenants, there is little hope for relief either through the rejuvenation or the collapse of the old plantation system.

The New Deal—through its cotton plow-up, rentals or non-production, subsidies for soil conservation and loans of the Federal Land Bank and the Land Bank Commission—has temporarily checked the loss of plantations by their owners. It has not rendered a commensurate service to the share-croppers, except to those few who have found their way to the rural rehabilitation farms or to one of the scattered federal farm colonies. The Civilian Conservation Corps, too, has been of real, though temporary, assistance to the many tenant families with sons enrolled. But, by and large, the share-croppers and farm wage hands remain forgotten in the cotton country. It is well-known that farm tenancy did not increase in the South as elsewhere in the nation between 1930 and 1935 simply because cropper families on cotton plantations were pushed into the subtenant status of wage hands.

Favors General Program

Since patterns of living in the plantation region are adequate only for landowners, the first great need is for a wider distribution of land ownership. To increase the number of land owners in cotton counties, a unified federal program is needed. The major aims of the general program should be to conserve and restore the soil; to provide, under supervision, production credit at low rates of interest to tenants as well as owners; and to establish an equitable relationship between the nation's urban and rural economy. Some hopeful beginnings have already been made through the programs for erosion control and soil improvement, the various crop-production and emergency-crop-loan services, the scientific control of crop production through regulation, and the emergence of farm-tenant labor unions and the establishment of farm co-operatives.

Specific federal legislation to increase land ownership should provide for the continuance, expansion and refinement of the present rural rehabilitation program; for continued experimentation with rural resettlement farm colonies, and, most important of all, for the launching of a program to assist tenants in selected areas to become land owners, through methods suggested by the experience of Denmark and other North European countries. Provision should be made for individual or collective ownership of farms, as seems preferable in view of topography, crops and experience of the participating families. It is particularly important that farm ownership should be encouraged in the fertile plantation counties. Effective tenancy ownership legislation must be specific in its provisions for adequate medical services and educational facilities, for a scientific and sympathetic supervisory personnel, and for the encouragement of farm and labor unions and producers' and consumers' co-operatives.

ARTHUR RAPER

THE SOUTH TODAY

The Future of Cotton Tenancy:—Part II

By W. M. JOHNSON

(Copyright, 1936, by Southern Newspaper Syndicate)

Editor's Note: W. M. Johnson, agricultural editor and special feature writer on the Little Rock Arkansas Democrat, has followed newspaper and magazine work for more than 20 years. He has contributed to all the leading farm magazines, and for six years was a roving correspondent for the Country Gentleman, visiting in that time every state in the Union and many parts of Canada. The first part of this discussion, by Arthur Raper, appeared in this column recently.

Tenancy in the South, as in other sections of the country, now seems likely to be dealt with in a remedial way. It is under assault by the Resettlement Administration and there are strong indications that this session of congress will adopt legislation to aid worthy tenants in becoming farm owners.

Throughout the South an aroused

ownership is seldom mentioned. To
ite only one case, the biggest plan-
tation in Arkansas was built up by
ers and 1,112,000 tenants. To aver-
white farmer who began as
nare-cropper.
Furthermore, an average of
ags for any large group is a distor-
on that obscures as much as it re-
eals. In 1935 there were in our 15
outhern states 716,000 share-crop-
ers and
ge all the grades of ability in that
tal is like averaging the height of
e trees and grass on your lawn.
distinguished rural economist in
Washington once said to this point,
effect:
"Average figures indicate that
e average crop is grown at a loss;
at the average cow is milked at a loss; that the average beef animal
nd hog is raised at a loss. To the South had only the freed Ne-
dge by statistics, the farmer loses
oney all his life. He would seem
be the only man in the world
ho can do that, yet live fairly
comfortably and die moderately well
of."

A large number of our share-
oppers and many of our renters
not live comfortably, or die in a
en modest well being. They live
of our tenant situation. It is the
fashion at present to decry tenantry
in the South as a pure evil, a de-
stroying economic blight, fostered by
greedy landlords and accepted with
sinful complacency by the public.
Little distinction is made between
our actual tenants, who own their
own work stock and tools, and our
share-croppers, who own nothing,
being really farm hands who get a
portion of the crop as wages. In-
stances of deplorable poverty among
share-croppers are held up to the
nation as typical of our entire ten-
ant class.

* * *

Success Side Overlooked

We hear much of share-croppers living in tumbled-down huts devoid of screens and with roofs open to the weather. But those who depict that sad extreme of tenant hardship overlook frequent happy instances of aged share-croppers longer able to work, who are still cared for by their landlords. A deal is dolefully said about our share-croppers having cash incomes that average only around $300—more or less, pending on the price of cotton. But the rise of a considerable number of share-croppers to farm

ered.

Agriculture - 1937
Labor Conditions.

General.

THE SOUTH TODAY

The Future of Cotton Tenacy
A Discussion in Two Parts: Part 1

By ARTHUR RAPER

(Copyright, 1936, by Southern Newspaper Syndicate)

Editor's Note: Arthur Raper, professor of sociology at Agnes Scott College, and research secretary of the Commission on Interracial Co-operation, is author of "Preface to Peasantry," a sociological survey of the tenant farmer situation published last year, and considered by many the most comprehensive work on this subject ever written.

A further discussion of this problem, written by William Johnson, of the Little Rock (Ark.) Democrat, will appear in this column next Sunday.

Broadly speaking, the cotton South is divided into uplands, river bottoms, coastal plains and the new Southwest. The cotton plantation crescent, stretching from eastern Virginia to western Texas, includes the best farm lands of the region. Here on the richest soil live the South's poorest and most completely dependent people—the cotton tenants.

That the vast majority of the tenant families of the South have a very low plane of living is shown by the houses they live in, the clothes they wear, the food they eat, the dietary diseases they suffer from, the midwives and patent medicines they rely upon, the crude equipment they farm with, the low incomes they have and the high rates of interest they pay.

Often without "Sunday clothes" and seldom having money for the collection plate, tenant farmers are not comfortable in church. Moreover, church leaders reach out for them but hesitantly. In the field of public education, the tenant children are handicapped by inadequate clothing and, in most states, by the absence of free textbooks. Some children are kept in the cotton fields by landlords, some are kept at home by parents to do family chores.

Cash Crops a Necessity.

The roots of cotton tenancy strike deep in Southern life. The plantation system's debt structure has made cash crops a necessity. The poor balance between urban and rural economy in recent decades has virtually forced the plantation owners to increase their cash earnings, lest they lose their lands to urban creditors. Furthermore, the white people of the South have kept the Negroes landless, the better to keep them dependent and servile. Yet the 1935 census showed that 1,200,000 of the South's 1,831,000 landless families were white. Thus the tenancy system, which has held the Negro "in his place," now penalizes nearly twice as many white as Negro families.

The tenants, whether white or Negro, have not shared in the financial risk of cotton plantation farming simply because the system did not train and would not permit them to accumulate property and exercise responsibility. In view of the fact that the cotton tenants are held by economic and cultural forces, in their disinherited condition on the richest lands of the South, it is not surprising that many of them are improvident, that they often fail to report for work when expected, that they are relatively unproductive and that they frequently make careless use of what little money and provisions they get. Neither is it surprising that a plantation system which exacts high rates of interest from labor and which is so sadly lacking in economic and cultural motivation and so unproductive, should mine the soil of its fertility, should be subjected to frequent bankruptcies and should subject those who control it to the unending tedium of supervising propertyless families made and kept childlike.

So long as the South had virgin soil and a world monopoly in the production of cotton, this plantation system could remain intact. But its doom became inevitable when other countries, began to produce cotton by the millions of bales. The old cotton plantation is now shaken by forces from without and from within. What is in store for the landless millions on the South's cotton plantations?

* * *

The Vital Need

The churches can increase their mission work, the health agencies can establish new clinics, the relief organizations can give assistance to additional families. Such salvaging work should not be neglected, but the fundamental need is for the improvement of the chronically inadequate economic and social conditions from which the acute individual cases result.

Unless a definite program of rehabilitation is put into effect, there is every reason to expect that the emergence of large-scale mechanized farms in the most fertile areas of the South will create a type of peasantry in the hilly and less fertile sections. Men working by hand and with one-horse plows on unproductive fields cannot compete with power-driven machines on fertile plains. If the plantation is revitalized by mechanization, the number of people employed will decrease and the living standards of most of those still employed will not be materially raised, unless there is a more fundamental change in the plantation philosophy than mere mechanization will effect. On the other hand, the population pressure on the poorer land will tend to increase, leaving the people there no alternative but the adoption of a self-sufficient farm economy—producing little, selling little, buying little. Consequently, for the mass of cotton tenants, there is little hope for relief either through the rejuvenation or the collapse of the old plantation system.

The New Deal—through its cotton plow-up, rentals or non-production subsidies for soil conservation and loans of the Federal Land Bank and the Land Bank Commission—has temporarily checked the loss of plantations by their owners. It has not rendered a commensurate service to the share-croppers, except to those few who have found their way to the rural rehabilitation farms or to one of the scattered federal farm colonies. The Civilian Conservation Corps, too, has been of real, though temporary, assistance to the many tenant families with sons enrolled. But, by and large, the share-croppers and farm wage hands remain forgotten in the cotton country. It is well-known that farm tenancy did not increase in the South as elsewhere in the nation between 1930 and 1935 simply because cropper families on cotton plantations were pushed into the subtenant status of wage hands.

Favors General Program

Since patterns of living in the plantation region are adequate only for landowners, the first great need is for a wider distribution of land ownership. To increase the number of land owners in cotton counties, a unified federal program is needed. The major aims of the general program should be to conserve and restore the soil; to provide, under supervision, production credit at low rates of interest to tenants as well as owners; and to establish an equitable relationship between the nation's urban and rural economy. Some hopeful beginnings have already been made through the programs for erosion control and soil improvement, the various crop-production and emergency-crop-loan services, the scientific control of crop production through regulation, and the emergence of farm-tenant labor unions and the establishment of farm co-operatives.

Specific federal legislation to increase land ownership should provide for the continuance, expansion and refinement of the present rural rehabilitation program; for continued experimentation with rural resettlement farm colonies, and, most important of all, for the launching of a program to assist tenants in selected areas to become land owners, through methods suggested by the experience of Denmark and other North European countries. Provision should be made for individual or collective ownership of farms, as seems preferable in view of topography, crops and experience of the participating families. It is particularly important that farm ownership should be encouraged in the fertile plantation counties. Effective tenancy ownership legislation must be specific in its provisions for adequate medical services and educational facilities, for a scientific and sympathetic supervisory personnel, and for the encouragement of farm and labor unions and producers' and consumers' co-operatives.

ARTHUR RAPER

THE SOUTH TODAY

The Future of Cotton Tenancy:—Part II

By W. M. JOHNSON

(Copyright, 1936, by Southern Newspaper Syndicate)

Editor's Note: W. M. Johnson, agricultural editor and special feature writer on the Little Rock Arkansas Democrat, has followed newspaper and magazine work for more than 20 years. He has contributed to all the leading farm magazines, and for six years was a roving correspondent for the Country Gentleman, visiting in that time every state in the Union and many parts of Canada. The first part of this discussion, by Arthur Raper, appeared in this column recently.

Tenancy in the South, as in other sections of the country, now seems likely to be dealt with in a remedial way. It is under assault by the Resettlement Administration and there are strong indications that this session of congress will adopt legislation to aid worthy tenants in becoming farm owners.

Throughout the South an aroused and informed public opinion is giving impetus to the attack on tenancy launched long ago in Dixie by many of its editors, educational leaders, and other public-spirited citizens. They have known for 70 years that the South has a tenant problem, and have been awake to the threat of a growing class of landless rural people.

As action to solve this problem begins, we should have a clear view of our tenant situation. It is the fashion at present to decry tenantry in the South as a pure evil, a destroying economic blight, fostered by greedy landlords and accepted with a sinful complacency by the public. Little distinction is made between our actual tenants, who own their own work stock and tools, and our share-croppers, who own nothing, being really farm hands who get a portion of the crop as wages. Instances of deplorable poverty among share-croppers are held up to the nation as typical of our entire tenant class.

* * *

Success Side Overlooked

We hear much of share-croppers living in tumbled-down huts devoid of screens and with roofs open to the weather. But those who depict that sad extreme of tenant hardship overlook frequent happy instances of aged share-croppers no longer able to work, who are still to be cared for by their landlords. A great deal is dolefully said about our share-croppers having cash incomes of that average only around $300—more or less, pending on the price of cotton. But the rise of a considerable number of share-croppers to farm even modest well being. They live the land till the harvest was gathered.

How Share-Cropping Started

Share-cropping was, in its origin, an economic triumph over staggering odds. At the close of the war between the states, the agricultural system of the South, almost its only means of support, lay in wreckage. There was little money at all and almost no credit. For labor on the plantations and larger farms the South had only the freed Negro, a worker as yet undisciplined in the responsibilities of freedom, for many of our rural people have no skill for any other than share-work. They yield a satisfactory living in the South as it is for thousands of families. And in 1935 there were in our 15 southern states 716,000 share-croppers and 1,112,000 tenants. To aver-

In the years since, share-cropping has undergone changes. Its ranks now include a heavy proportion of white families. Stresses have developed out of new conditions which have been less favorable for the South than for the North.

The South has had to sell largely in world markets the one great staple—cotton—that its soil, climate and labor are best adapted to produce. At the same time the South has paid out of the lower world prices it got, tariff-lifted prices for much that it bought. This has meant a profit margin so narrow that only the most skilled producers could prosper.

Serious Erosion Loss

Southern tenantry has also been influenced by yet other handicaps on southern agriculture. Our soil, not kept in place over winter by the iron grip of frost, erodes faster than northern soil does. This deterioration has ruined much hill land, forcing a movement of upland population to the cotton lowlands, crowding the already full ranks of tenantry and forcing down earnings by competition for jobs.

Too, our climate is unsuitable for many staple crops of the North. Thus, while the North was able to bring from Europe a ready-made pattern of agriculture, the South has had to build an agriculture of its own, largely dependent upon subtropical plants.

But the South, aware of the perils in depending on cotton alone, has striven from early days to effect a diversified production. And with that great pasture grass, Bermuda, from the islands of the same name; with lespedeza, a splendid legume from Japan; with rice and soybeans from Asia, sorghums from Africa and other plants discovered here and there by the United States department of agriculture, the South has put together an agriculture which in many localities is as tidy and prosperous as may be found anywhere in the North.

The South has had yet another challenge to meet in malaria. Men of informed opinion declare that malaria, often accompanied by faulty diets, accounts for a great part of our rural poverty. The Resettlement administration has brought aid to two critical points. First, it is checking the descent of thousands of small farmers to tenancy and share-cropping through its rehabilitation plan. Extending loans and making outright grants to farmers hard hit by drouth or floods, the RA is enabling them to recover their independence. Up to last November, more than 230,000 rehabilitation loans had been made to small farmers and tenants in the South. Another large number received grants.

Pushing further its attack on tenantry, the RA is buying up this land and resettling on richer soil the families there who are sliding down the economic scale to share-cropping. It is also opening resettlement projects here and there over the South for share-croppers and tenants who have made good use of rehabilitation loans.

Government Buying Farms

Three such projects, launched some time ago by the federal government, have attracted much attention. One is the Dyess colony, in Mississippi County, Arkansas. This has 450 families on it, living in community comfort. There is a similar colony at Cherryville, Fla., and another in Pine Mountain Valley, Ga.

Besides these projects, the RA is buying farms for 1,000 Southern tenants, to be sold to them after a trial period on long time. The farms will average a cost of about $5,000.

But the great body of share-croppers and tenants obviously will be left in their present status, so far as present federal plans go. To provide them all with farms would run into too much money.

"Farms will be the top reward for a limited number of tenants who prove special fitness for it," said an RA official. "We can't give them all farms. That isn't a panacea, anyway, for all tenant troubles. One big value of our work is in uncovering the fact that tenancy springs from many causes—low farm incomes, poor practices, erosion, impaired health, paying speculative prices for land. We are pointing ways to overcome these adverse factors in large measure. Our examples are setting in motion private attacks on tenancy. Several big land owners have announced they will divide holdings and sell them on favorable terms to tenants."

The RA is making an interesting experiment in lending money to co-operative groups of clients to hire physicians by the month. Loans are repaid at the rate of $1.25 to $2 a month, and the families get all needed medical service except hospitalization. This plan is as yet confined mainly to Arkansas and Mississippi.

Much private effort will be required to lift tenancy to a higher plane. A too-often sighted essential is the production of ample home food supplies. But improvement is steadily more apparent. The Southern wit that devised share cropping to meet a grave emergency can be counted on in the big task of adjusting the system less painfully to a changed order.

Southern Share-Cropping

In The Telegraph of Monday of last week is a discussion of the "Future of Cotton Tenancy", under the general heading "The South Today". Telegraph

The article was written by W. M. Johnson, and it is one of a series being sent out by the Southern Newspaper Syndicate. 2-4-37

Mr. Johnson has a thorough understanding of the southern problem. Macon Tel His writing is intelligent and fair. He has no hidden motive in drawing his picture. He regards the tenant system as a means to an end. It was inevitable under the conditions that existed in the South after the War of the 1860's. The newly emancipated Negroes were, to a considerable extent, irresponsible. Many of them had never worked except under compulsion, and when they were freed before they were prepared for it, many of them could not be trusted to operate farms of their own. They would go off to protracted meeting or to camp meeting, and leave their livestock penned up for an entire week without food or water. They would ramble away from their farms in midsummer, leaving the crops to go to grass. Especially would they do such things if they had already bought on credit and borrowed all they could hope to get out of the landlord.

Some of the Negroes were not so irresponsible. They would do their best. Many of those who were brought over to this country as slaves were of a high order. They were intelligent, industrious, and trustworthy, but it was difficult to distinguish the better from the worse, without having experience with both; so landlords, eager to sell or to rent their vast acres, conceived the idea of the tenant system, and the more responsible Negroes were assisted in various ways to become farmers. In due time renters had their own stock and their own farm implements, and a considerable number of them bought the land and assumed the privilege of landlords, if owning land could be considered much of a privilege in those dark days.

Then some of the wages-hands proved themselves a little more worthy, and the landlords, eager to give them a chance, let them have farms of their own, and assumed all of the financial risk, but agreed to allow a share in the crop to compensate for the labor. This is called share-cropping. Both systems were intended to teach the former slave how to pull himself up in the world.

Arthur Raper, who has written extensively on the subject, having published a large book called "Preface to Peasantry", and having written a series of articles for the Southern Newspaper Syndicate, has entirely missed the point. In some of his articles in The Telegraph he points out only the evil in the system. He forgot the grand and benign purpose of it, and what he wrote seems to have been inspired by prejudice only.

He proceeded on the idea that the landlord was a bad man because he owned land, and that share-cropping and tenancy were just another form of slavery. Mr. Raper has written as one who doesn't like the heart and soul of the southern white man and believes that he should be reformed. All of the white man's efforts to make the most of his distress, and to do the best he could in his crippled condition to lift up himself and the people dependent upon him were overlooked by Mr. Raper. Mr. Johnson, on the other hand, writes understandingly, and what he has to say of the South today is well worth reading. Men like Mr. Raper can produce all sorts of trouble if they have enough genius. Mrs. Harriet Beecher Stowe had the genius, and she used it with deadly effect, causing untold and unnecessary woe and misery to millions of Americans, white and black. Mr. Raper writes as one who would do the same thing if he could.

It is well that men like Mr. Johnson can come to the front and present the South today in its true light, and put light where Raper leaves gloom.

TENANCY REPORT SENT TO PRESIDENT

Roosevelt Will Forward Recommendations to Congress This Week

WASHINGTON, Feb. 13—(UP)—President Roosevelt's farm tenancy committee sent to the White House tonight a report recommending legislation for assistance of tenant farmers, official sources said.

President Roosevelt will not make the report public until he sends it to congress, probably early next week. However, from sources close to the committee it was learned the program is based on five principal recommendations. These are:

1. Loans at low interest rates to tenants for purchase of farms.
2. Creation of a farm security administration, supplemented by a farm security corporation.
3. Curbing of land speculation through a tax on land transactions.
4. Protection of landowners through more stable tenancy.
5. Creation of committees to arbitrate disputes between tenants and landowners.

The committee, headed by Secretary of Agriculture Henry A. Wallace, warned that 3,000,000 farmers, nearly half of the nation's farm population, are living in conditions which "threaten rural civilization with decadence."

General.

Agriculture - 1937
Labor Conditions.

Piedmont, Ala., Journal
August 20, 1937

Low Plane Of Tenant Farmer

Dr. Arthur Raper, Research and Field Secretary of the Commission on Interracial Cooperation, writing in The Presbyterian Survey on Farm Tenancy and the Delta Cooperative Farm, draws a graphic picture of the typical underpriviledged tenant farmer of the cotton area of the South.

He estimates that 9,000,000 people in the cotton states, eke out a bare existence as tenant farmers the vast majority of which "have a low plane of living, as measured by the houses they live in, the clothes they wear, the food they eat, the dietary diseases they suffer from, the midwives and patent medicines they rely upon, the crude equipment they farm with, the small incomes they have and the high rates of interest they pay."

Dr. Raper estimates that the "typical tenant farmer's income is less than $300 per year; the usual carrying charges for "furnishing" is 10 per cent for a period of only about six months, often running up to 30 per cent," in the main.

The pitiful part of Dr. Raper's indictment of conditions in the cotton belt is that it is essentially true, but what is worse, there has not as yet been found any adequate remedy for this deplorable condition, any more than that applied to the economic condition of any other class of people, namely, the slow and gradually evolution of economc independence as represented by the initiative, energy and determination of any group in its own salvation.

The typical tenant farmer as referred to by Dr. Raper is not exactly the type as exists through the hills and valleys of North Alabama, where farming is on more or less a small scale, and where the income of the tenant farmer depends upon his own energy and initiative.

As a matter of fact any man who is satisfied to huddle his family in a lean-too, with only the bare necessities of a mere existence, would not be an asset in any other industry, because he is shiftless, worthless and irresponsible. But there are thousands of such farmers on the big, rich plantations in the lowlands, who are at the mercy of their landlord bosses, whose existence could and should be raised to a more liveable and decent plane, not only for their own sake but in the common interest of the landlords themselves.

The cotton control program of the federal government is doing a great deal to improve these conditions, but there is a long way to go yet.

Urges Cotton Pickers To Leave Fields, Is Jailed

Observer

BLYTHEVILLE, Ark., Oct. 15—Jailed on a charge of intimidating laborers when he attempted to induce cotton pickers to leave their work in the field hunters paid higher wages, George Cowdy was sentenced to 12 months in jail and fined $500 in Municipal court on October 8.

The cotton pickers said Cowdy warned them not to pick for less than $1 per hundred pounds, telling them they would be beaten if they did. Seventy cents a hundred is being paid in this section.

Asheville, N. C., Citizen
September 24, 1937

DRIFTING NORTH

From widely scattered areas of the South comes a plaint, louder of late, that a shortage of cotton field hands endangers picking of the cotton crop. Bolls burst quickly in the hot September sun; in some areas pickers, this year far fewer in number, must work double-quick to keep up with the gin.

For what has long been the most reliable source of field labor is steadily being drained from the South. The negro, no longer satisfied with his lot, is emigrating to other and more populous areas in increasing numbers. The negro population drift has been more marked than many persons realize. Four southern states—Virginia, South Carolina, Georgia and Kentucky—have shown an absolute decrease. On the other hand, Michigan, for instance, has had a gain of 182 per cent, Wisconsin 106 per cent and New York 108 per cent. In the Middle West four large cities have increased their negro populations by 200 per cent from 1920 to 1930, while no southern cities with the exception of Chattanooga and Miami recorded any sizeable gain.

The change in the negro's economic status has been more marked since the last census was taken than it was before that time. There is a lack of available figures to help throw a needed light on the situation. But take the matter of immigration alone. From the turn of the century down to the World War an average of close to a million immigrants a year entered the United States. From 1914 to 1930 immigration averaged in the neighborhood of 300,000 a year. Since 1930 the average has been approximately 30,000 annually.

This situation has had a decided bearing on the demand for negro labor; and the bearing would have been marked if the times had been at all normal. The country between the ending of the World War and the crash in 1929 absorbed in some fashion some three million persons, a great part of them presumably laborers, who came here from other lands. Between 1900 and the outbreak of the World War it absorbed, again in some fashion, in the neighborhood of fifteen million foreigners.

Many of these immigrants were brought here for the purpose of providing cheap labor. True, our industry was expanding faster than our own labor supply could meet the demands. But an effect of immigration was to keep negro labor cheaper than it might otherwise have been. An effect of the stopping of immigration has been to create a demand for negro labor in other parts of the country than the South.

That is one phase of the picture, affording some explanation of the migration that is in progress. The picture, nevertheless, has other sides. Agricultural acreage, especially cotton acreage, has been drastically reduced. That reduces the demand for negro labor in the field in which that demand has been most insistent in the past. There is a shortage now of negro labor for cotton picking; but it always took three or four persons to pick the cotton one plowhand could cultivate. That was the explanation of the surplus negro population on the land in the South. A basic weakness of cotton has ever been the fact that for a great part of the time many of those engaged in cotton farming were idle.

One of the major problems which will be raised in the South by the minimum wage law that congress is going to enact will be the effects of this law on negro employment. What these effects will be we do not now pretend to forecast. We have not studied the matter sufficiently. They may well be far-reaching and the assumption that they will be healthy would be extremely rash.

Charleston, S. C. News & Courier
September 23, 1937

The Results We've Got

From all parts of the South, Texas, Alabama, Georgia, South Carolina, is a labor shortage. The cotton fields are white and heavy with cotton. A "bumper crop" has been raised—and the price is under nine cents a pound. With three cents a pound loans on 65 per cent of the crop, the outlook is still not bright. Farmers believe that fifty cents a hundred is as much as the business will stand, that they take a large risk when they pay more to pickers.

The unwillingness of laborers to pick cotton is wide-spread. Most of the Southern labor is negro. Southern cotton growers are—shall we say, at its mercy?—in the Autumn and early winter months.

Why the shortage? Why the extreme reluctance of negroes to pick cotton? Why in some of the towns of South Carolina is it difficult to find a domestic servant? It was never so before. Every thinking man knows the answer.

Now we hear, from many communities, of farmers meeting and organizing to fix the price for cotton picking. (Agreements among corporations to fix wages are considered infamous, are they not?) In some cities and towns are tacit agreements that laws against vagrancy will be enforced. Sometimes they are enforced. Men are dropped from relief rolls and told that unless they go to work they will be sent to jail. Why were they on relief rolls? Is any man with two strong arms in this region with its mild climate and abundant land incapable of digging the food he needs out of the ground? "Yes," you say? Sell it to the marines.

That is one side. The other is agitation in foreign parts, in northern states, to prevent forced labor in the South. They call it "peonage." Perhaps it is—we shall not debate that or defend it. There is agitation for laws for minimum wages and shorter hours. Can one conceive of a minimum wage of $16 for forty hours a week for labor in shops that will not sow discontent and resentment in farm labor left to work ten or eleven hours a day six days in the week?

Add to it the impression deliberately made by government that no man shall hunger, add to it relief and to that the prospect of "social security," and we have the whole economic structure of South Carolina, the South, disturbed, demoralized. Are you surprised?

The News and Courier detests and warns against secret political societies whether they be the Ku Klux Klan, Night Riders or Vigilantes. Who is instigating them? Who but government, the New Deal, the Roosevelt administration, has created this dangerous condition?

Who but the Roosevelt administration coquetting with the C. I. O., blowing upon it neither hot nor cold, encourages the lawless taking possession of property in the North by sit down strikers and its constantly repeated threat to invade the South?

In South Carolina has been no general and abnormal unemployment in five years. It came to an end in the cotton mills in the Autumn of 1932, six months before Mr. Roosevelt took office. The crisis of March, 1933, threw a few hundred or thousands of white collar workers out of jobs, it reduced the earnings of the masses, but it no more threatened those masses with starvation than did the long panic of the 'nineties or the five months suspension of cotton selling in 1914. Government set up white collar jobs for thousands in relief administration, WPA and so forth—and some women and men who had never worked in good times or bad got jobs.

So, government set out to raise "the standard of living;" it preached a new gospel; it interfered audaciously with an age-old system. What have we got? Are the Southern masses enjoying a higher standard of living? Are they paying smaller taxes on cigarets and sugar? Are they eating more red meat and pork chops than usual?

We have got a situation pregnant with peril. Demoralized farm labor. Employing farmers harassed and angered. Ignorant outsiders, the "bedbug intelligentsia" Mencken calls them, intent on delivering "peons" from men who believe themselves on the verge of bankruptcy.

Meddlesomeness by government, its injection of quack remedies, have poisoned the South. Government has tied the hands of those of us who have spent long lives denouncing lawlessness—who still denounce it and see their efforts beaten down by impractical dreamers and by purchasers of votes, by demagogues and drones.

This poison has gone into the blood of thousands of good citizens—of thousands who cannot now find labor to pick their cotton, of some who may resort to peonage as a cure for the results which they have themselves helped to bring about.

Gastonia, N. C. Gazette
September 25, 1937

NEGRO LABOR IN THE SOUTH

The crisis that is confronting Southern cotton farmers in the shortage of farm labor, particularly in the cotton picking season, has been discussed in this paper more than once.

If this situation has been aggravated by the present government policy of granting general relief, by its WPA grants and other subsidies, what can be expected if and when the Black-Connery wage bill is passed and becomes applicable to farm labor?

From every quarter of the South comes the same lament. What used to be competent farm labor in the cotton fields is no longer obtainable. Fields are white unto the harvest and there are no pickers. The Asheville Citizen says:

"For what has long been the most reliable source of field labor is steadily being drained from the South. The Negro, no longer satisfied with his lot, is emigrating to other and more populous areas in increasing numbers. The Negro population drift has been more marked than many persons realize. Four southern states—Virginia, South Carolina, Georgia and Kentucky—have shown an absolute decrease. On the other hand, Michigan, for instance, has had a gain of 182 per cent, Wisconsin 106 per cent and New York 108 per cent. In the Middle West four large cities have increased their Negro populations by 200 per cent from 1920 to 1930, while no southern cities with the exception of Chattanooga and Miami recorded any sizable gain."

Negro labor is leaving the South, in spite of the fact, as Representative Arthur W. Mitchell, colored congressman from Chicago, pointed out here the other night, that many of them in the North are on relief, and their jobs have been taken by foreigners. They are being attracted by tales of more lucrative work.

It looks as if the Southern farmer is going to have to revamp his whole scheme of farming. He can no longer depend on Negro hands. They won't work for what he can afford to pay them, as they once did in other days. The Citizen, discussing this phase of the situation, says:

"Agricultural acreage, especially cotton acreage, has been drastically reduced. That reduces the demand for Negro labor in the field in which that demand has been most insistent in the past. There is a shortage now of Negro labor for cotton picking; but it always took three or four persons to pick the cotton one plowhand could cultivate. That was the explanation of the surplus Negro population on the land in the South. A basic weakness of cotton has ever been the fact that for a great part of the time many of those engaged in cotton farming were idle.

"One of the major problems which will be raised in the South by the minimum wage law that congress is going to enact will be the effects of this law on Negro employment. What these effects will be we do not now pretend to forecast. We have not studied the matter sufficiently. They may well be far-reaching and the assumption that they will be healthy would be extremely rash."

Negro Sharecroppers Are Suffering; Aid Needed

O. H. Whitfield, Executive Board Member of Southern Tenant Farmers' Union, Describes Conditions

By SAMUEL P. BILLS

ST. LOUIS. — (Special) —Loss of homes, hunger, starvation and all the accompanying degrees of discomfort will be the discouraging lot of 400,000 farmers and their families in the opinion of O. H. Whitfield, executive board member and organizer of the Southern Tenant Farmers' Union, affiliate of the C. I. O., who was in St. Louis this week enroute to his home near Charleston from a conference in Washington where he had, with others, tried to get aid and legal assistance for the farmers of seven southern states.

Whitfield painted a dismal picture of the conditions in the states of Missouri, Arkansas, Mississippi, Texas, Oklahoma, Alabama and Tennessee, the major cotton states. Since the passage of the AAA the Negro farmer, the basic support of the southern sharecropper industry, has been constantly discriminated against.

"But the Negro sharecropper," said Whitfield, "will not stand idly by, for he will continue to complain. He will not take up arms, for that would mean losing the cause." Efforts are being made, then, to contact every family and urge them to become members of the Tenant Farmers, thus making standardization possible.

Some vital and touching facts were brought out by Whitfield. For instance his own expenses were taken care of from the pockets of suffering thousands. No family is permitted even a chicken or a pig. Ninety-five percent have no cows Eighty-seven percent have no corn.

Wages Very Low

A family sorely in need may not apply for relief unless the "boss" says so. Wages range from 75 cents to one dollar a day. Hours run from daybreak to sunset. Women, children and men must work. Schools close for cotton picking.

In this region the average family has seven members. The average home, really a shack, has two rooms.

No attempt is being made to better conditions by the southern white farm owners.

A pitiable story is told which involves a St. Louis white insurance company. A group of Negro farmers is attempting to buy some land near Windyville, Mo. They grubbed the land, built rude cabins and enthusiastically set about to make themselves in some manner comfortable. The floods came. The land was drowned. Prices went up.

Then a letter was received from the company informing the prospective purchasers that they must move by sometime in December unless they meet certain conditions. And now the hopes of a small group of Negroes lie virtually blasted.

The difficulties arise because of union activities on the part of Negroes. When the farm owners, who are not farmers in the literal sense of the word, according to Whitfield, heard of the interest of the Negroes in unions, they rose up in arms. Ginners who had any money set up their own gins. Competitive bidding among ginners stopped. But still the Negroes pawns of progress, had to be used But their wages were not raised

There are two kinds of sharecroppers. The first is the renter the Negro who has authority over a group of workers and rents his land. The other is the tenant farmer, the man who lives on the land and is supposed to share 50-50 with the white boss in contrast to the 75-25 sharing of the renter.

Whitfield, who is a minister, pastoring three Baptist churches, said the ministers of the state are doing nothing to help the Negro. "They are afraid to preach anything but heaven," he said.

Negroes Will Fight

Whitfield felt that something has been accomplished in that more information is being brought to light on conditions among sharecroppers. Virtual slavery may be reduced to some form of independent relationship, he felt, if the Negroes will fight. That fight, he said, will be in the form of conferences, both with government officials and farm owners. There will be no resorting to weapons he said. It was his opinion that much can be done by "passive resistance."

One of the most impressive plan of the tenants will be to move t the very steps of the courthouse unless results are obtained, Whitfield said.

Agriculture-1937
Labor Conditions

General.

DEPLORE DEARTH FARM LABORERS

In the "People's Forum" of the Savannah Morning News of the Tuesday issue, a farmer of a nearby county deplored the crop condition, taking issue with the roseate picture being painted about the same. She emphasized the need of sufficient help to gather the cotton crop. In discussing it, she recited her experience while in Savannah in trving to induce those she thought were idle, to accept employment, offering transportation. She did not say how much pay she offered. This is the crux of the entire farm situation. These farmers believe in working their helpers from early morning to late evenings at the meager pay of fifty or sixty cents per day. There was a time when hordes of laborers could be secured for this sum, but not at present when it cost a man with a family more than this amount for grocery bill alone. No one should blame a man who refuses to work at such a starvation pay. Is it any wonder that these farms are avoided and the urban localities more favored? The condition in at least two other directions have forced the trek to the towns, the need of proper protection and lack of school facilities for their children. It is known that in the rural sections many advantages are taken of our people which they dare not resent, even the invading of their homes by a class of men whom the better class of white men seem unable to control. Should there be the least resentment, the charge is always made that the colored man is to be blamed. Generally farm laborers have a number of children. Most of these children are forced to grow without any schooling because of inadequate facilities. Ambitious parents dislike this situation and of necessity leave the farms for betterment. They can not be blamed for doing so. If the farm owners would improve these situations, increase pay, better protection, proper school facilities, then there will be no need to complain for the want of sufficient help. Until these be done, the farms will be avoided.

Grasping Greed

The tenant farmers and farm laborers of Arkansas should fight with every weapon to stop the cotton planters from bringing in Mexican cotton pickers. Conditions there are already bad. How bad is indicated by the unprecedented action of whites and blacks in forgetting the color line and uniting to enforce their demands. They ask $1.25 a hundred pounds for picking cotton, not unreasonable now that the planters have the price guaranteed by the federal government's offer to lend them money on cotton.

But southern planters refuse to drop the habit of squeezing profit out of labor. Impartially they have victimized Negroes and poor whites. The former have continued to be slaves in fact, because they exchange their toil for a bare existence stripped of the comforts, the necessities of decent living, even of hope. At the same time the poor whites tricked into supporting the system by race prejudice's appeal to their vanity, are caught in the same trap as the blacks. Sooner or later the two were bound to be driven into each other's arms to save themselves. Mexican labor is aimed at that union.

The way in which the white preacher and the white woman were maltreated in Arkansas indicates that state has no law to which the weak can appeal. Still these farm workers must fight. Greed must not have a free hand.

Organized labor has been making demands on many fronts, and has backed them with strikes some of which were carried on with new technique. In defense of their conduct the workers pleaded that the end justified the means. No situation from which they wanted relief was as bad as the plight of the farm workers in the South. If their conduct is a pattern to be followed, any steps taken to stop these Mexicans from continuing the system which has impoverished the South is in the public interest.

Today the world is one market. Low prices and bad working conditions in one producing area have repercussions everywhere. It is actually for the good of the Mexicans themselves in Mexico that their brethern here in Arkansas shall not be permitted to keep down American farm workers. Now that the government has taken away all excuse for limiting cotton pickers to 50 cents per hundred pounds, planters' grasping greed must be stopped, whatever the means.

We pity the Mexicans, who are tools of the planters in their unholy effort to keep peonage clamped upon the agricultural South. They are what they are because in their own country they have been victims of unfeeling power for hundreds of years.

Southern Planters Troubled By Cotton-Picker Shortage

ATLANTA, Sept. 19. — (AP) — Five States in the cotton belt reported localized shortages of field hands today and blamed part of their troubles on the weather.

Snow white acres in sections of Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi and South Carolina needed cotton pickers.

Rains held up pickings of ripened cotton in many sections. Then the sun began to shine and more cotton was ready to be picked than there were men to pick it in time to prevent damage.

Wage differentials causing migration from one section to another as the pay for field hands varied was described as contributing to the difficulties of some areas.

In Georgia the WPA announced release or voluntary retirement of 2,129 workers in favor of cotton field jobs since Aug. 15. All manual labor projects were temporarily closed in 18 counties and others worked with skeleton crews.

Farmers in Warren County, Georgia, established "dawn patrols," Sheriff G. P. Hogan said, to prevent planters from neighboring sections from raiding their supply of field hands.

In South Carolina, T. J. Johnstone, State reemployment director, said "any labor that is available" would be assigned for farm work. The National Youth Administration said it would offer its rolls similarly.

State WPA Administrator Lawrence M. Pinckney said northward migration of negroes probably was responsible in part for some of South Carolina's shortages.

Louisiana Hit, Too

Farm Placement Supervisor William F. Boyd, of Louisiana's State Employment Service said continued rains there have prevented small tenant farmers from picking their own crops thereby "making it impossible for them to become available for work with larger farmers."

He added, it is also possible "the so-called shortage of labor may be due to a difference in wage scales being offered by the farmers in certain adjoining sections which condition precludes possibility of distribution of labor available."

Alabama's State Agricultural Commissioner, R. J. Goode, said many growers in that State were transporting pickers by truck from and back to towns daily. He said there possibly might have been some shortage without the rains adding, "there usually is."

WPA Workers Protected

Fred Hurst, of Mississippi State Extension Service, said sunny weather of the past week has caused a shortage of pickers in the delta county. The WPA advised workers they could leave WPA jobs to pick cotton without losing their WPA status. Clarksdale, in the Mississippi delta region sent out a call for 50,000 pickers.

State Reemployment Director Paul Jessen, of Tennessee, asserted his Memphis office had sent several hundred pickers "into Arkansas and Mississippi," adding "we have had no trouble finding enough for our own needs."

Floyd Sharp, State WPA administrator of Arkansas, said there was no shortage there either adding, "when the season opens planters always want twice as many pickers as are ever available to get their cotton out as quickly as possible. North Carolina, Virginia and Florida similarly said they had no reported labor shortages.

Cotton Problems

Plight of Sharecroppers and Pickers Described

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NEW YORK TIMES:

Recently, a tramp came to my house and asked for food. As he ate, I talked to him. He had ridden the freights from Colorado to California, and back as far as El Paso, looking for work, but had found none. He was on his way home to try to get back on the WPA.

"Why don't you pick cotton?" I asked him. He replied, "I have picked cotton in the past, but I would rather beg, or go hungry, than to have my hands swell, my fingers split open and my back ache unendurably in this fierce heat (then 100 degrees) for 75 cents a day."

I am not going to discuss his ethics, but I am going to comment on his statement.

What he said about swollen hands, cracked fingers and aching back is the truth. That is what happens to all cotton pickers. They pick cotton as fast as they can and, at the beginning of the season their hands swell badly. The swelling soon goes down but their fingers crack open and stay so all during the season.

Worse still, they have to bend over to gather the cotton, and their backs ache frightfully. The men mostly wear knee pads and walk on their knees so as to avoid this stooping position, so they suffer the least. The women's skirts prevent them from doing this and they and the children suffer severely.

Hard on Children

It is hardest on the children, as they are not as tough as their parents; their little hands and fingers are tender. They are kept out of school during the first three months of each school year, so they may pick cotton; so they are densely ignorant when they leave school, at an early age, after spending two years in each class. They are exploited and kept in ignorance, so that their pitiful little wages may enable their parents to buy them Winter clothes. It is a frightful outrage. The South is, and always will be, the most backward, ignorant, poverty-stricken part of the nation as long as it continues to keep its children out of school. Cotton is the curse of the South. I hate it because of what it does to the children.

Cotton picking is now in full blast here and all over the South. It will continue full blast until nearly Thanksgiving and then on a declining scale until Christmas. Here the pickers get 50 to 60 cents a hundred pounds. A really good picker, an unusual picker, can gather about 200 pounds in a day, so he earns from $1 to $1.20 daily. His wife will average about 100 pounds and the children will pick from fifteen to seventy-five pounds apiece.

A good picker, his wife and their four children will average about $12 to $15 a week. When cotton sold for more than 18 cents, some years ago, they earned twice that amount. As the men now get around $1.25 a day during the growing season and as their work is irregular they must, or believe they must, exploit their children so they can clothe them. It is much too hard, too exhausing work for children, even if it could be done during the school vacation.

The Sharecroppers' Lot

And the sharecroppers, what do they earn? One year with another, the average earnings of a family, which usually means a man, his wife and four or five children, are less than $250 per year. During these last few years of low prices they have earned only half of that munificent wage. They live in leaky shacks, go barefoot, eat insufficient food and the wrong kind of food. Their plight is a disgrace to the nation. We, the richest people in the world, go our way unmindful of the fact that millions of Southerners live on about the Chinese scale.

And what does the South, supposedly the most interested section, do about it? Because they always have been used to low wages and a low standard of living, because of custom or inertia, because half of the sharecroppers or field workers, or more than half, are Negroes, most Southerners seem to be satisfied to let bad enough alone. Some charitable or forward-looking or kind-hearted people are distressed, but not many. On the other hand, men of position or influence, men who should know better, say such things as the following:

"If a man can live comfortably on 50 cents a day in South Carolina, why should he be paid $1.50 just because it costs that much to live in Massachusetts?"

As long as most, or many, Southerners look at it that way, nothing will be done.

Remedies Suggested

I do not look at it that way, and something can be done. Down here in the Southwest we raise a bale of cotton to the acre, largely because we rotate cotton and legumes, and the South can do likewise. They can raise more food and feed on the land taken out of cotton. Every sharecropper should have a garden, a cow, a decent house, free firewood and, above all, should keep his children in school.

In the March Fortune there is an account of how the Delta and Pine Land Company treats its Negro tenants. That is probably the best, most fairly, honestly and humanely managed cotton plantation, as well as the largest in the world. It is in the Mississippi Delta. The Negro sharecroppers earn between $400 and $525 cash a year, besides having good rent-free houses, gardens, pigs or cows and chickens and free firewood—amounting to from $600 to $700 a year.

There are other remedies, other ways to solve the problem. One is to reduce our tariff to such a point as to increase trade with other nations. If we will buy more from them we will sell more to them, including cotton. That is the best remedy, at least for the cotton growers.

Another remedy, one that many people rage against, is to pay a subsidy on cotton whenever the price falls below the cost of production, as now.

GRENVILLE T. CHAPMAN.

El Paso, Texas, Oct. 18, 1937

Chattanooga, Tenn., Daily Times
October 25, 1937

FARM 'CROSS SECTION.'

A "cross section" study of the 2,500,000 persons employed as farm laborers in the United States reveals wide variations in wages drawn by workers in the different sections. Economists in the Department of Agriculture have discovered that female Negro cotton pickers in the Deep South are most poorly paid and that Orientals in Placer County, California, are the most highly paid. Eleven "sample counties" in the Nation were studied in a survey financed by relief funds. According to a story printed in the Farm Page of this issue of The Times, investigators went into the heart of the corn and wheat belts; the cotton, tobacco, dairy and fruit regions; and to areas where farm workers are employed the year round or for a few days. In the counties used as "samples," Northern farm workers were found to be more highly educated than their hard-working brethren below Mason's and Dixon's Line. It was found that, as a whole, the farm laborers took little part in organized activities in their communities, that they belonged to few formal organizations, unions or farmer groups.

The studies did not deal with the farm-owning class in any of the regions. Only hired hands, their wages, living conditions and activities were included in the survey. One county was selected in each of eleven States. The counties supposedly typical of the agriculture in those States were called "samples." One wonders, however, if they could be called "samples" if the selection in each State was similar to that made in Tennessee, one of whose counties was included. The county studied in this State was Fentress, in the Northeastern part of Middle Tennessee. That division of the State has some fine agricultural counties, but it is doubtful if Fentress could be considered as one of them. The county has a wealth of timber and minerals, but its topography prevents the development of agriculture as a major industry. The population is largely rural, since out of a total of fewer than 12,000 residents, less than 1,200 live in the two towns of Jamestown and Allardt. The natives of Fentress County depend little on farm work for their livelihood. Except for those who own small farms, agriculture receives little consideration as a vocation.

The residents of Fentress County will probably laugh long and loud when they read that the investigators found that the cotton picker there earned only $125 for the season, since it is extremely doubtful if Fentress County, in its entire history, has produced $125 worth of cotton. A part of the county is on the Cumberland Plateau and is suited to the production of Irish potatoes, but the investigators would have needed high-powered field glasses to have seen any cotton-picking from those green, wooded hills.

The industrious and prosperous citizens of Fentress County will probably feel like asking for a new survey, of their timber tracts and of their mining districts. Such a survey would show the county up in a better light than did the "cross section" of an almost nonexistent agricultural economy.

WHY THE YOWLING?

To The Commercial Appeal:

I notice in The Commercial Appeal that the Administration at Washington is starting an investigation into monopolies because it is perturbed about the mounting cost of living. This seems absurd. It is like the man who steps on the cat's tail and wonders what all the yowling is about. Don't you recall, or do you, that just a little while back Mr. Roosevelt and Mr. Wallace were cutting the value of the dollar materially and said it was for the purpose of driving up the price of commodities? They did and it did. So why the bewilderment?

Then again just a short time ago Mr. Oscar Johnston was letting it out that he was much opposed to compulsory control of cotton production. Now he says he favors it. How come? It has been told to me that Mr. Johnston does not own an acre of farmland, but that he draws a big salary from a foreign planting corporation, also another fine salary and perquisites from the Government. Also that the enormous planting concern at Scott, Miss., which he manages, at the most restricted part of the cotton restrictions was planting a full 60 to 70 per cent of its land in cotton.

Could it be possible that Mr. Johnston is trying to influence us little farmers to pull his chestnuts out of the fire? I notice he is going to Ku Klux us if we don't cut our acreage down like he says. Well, suh! Please tell him if he goes in for anything like that, he'd better keep his chin up—both chins.

R. T. WASHBURN.

Greenwood, Miss.

Agriculture — 1937
Labor Conditions

Georgia
6

U. S. Helps 10,000 Fa[illegible] Wage Epic Fight on Tenancy

Victory in Sight for Georgians Who Were Once Landless Rovers But Who Were 'Given a Chance' by Federal Rehabilitation Program.

By ALBON B. HAILEY.

An American epic of grit and determination is in the making in Georgia—it is the fight of Uncle Sam and 10,000 Georgia farm families against the marching shadow of farm tenancy.

And today victory is in sight for those families. That immediate goal of security, obtaining enough to eat, a decent place to live, education for their children has been achieved—at least in part—by most of them.

Now they are marching forward—still leaning on the sturdy arm of Uncle Sam, still depending on him to guide them along the way, but with the driving ambition to achieve independence, a farm of their own, and above all, to repay the federal government for restoring their self-respect and giving them an incentive to live.

They are the clients of the federal government's Rural Rehabilitation Administration. The story of their lives before Uncle Sam decided to take the responsibility for the results of the land and credit policies of, or permitted by, the government during the last half-century is a pitiful tale of hopelessness and despair.

Once they were a legion of landless rovers living in conditions that approached serfdom on the farms of Georgia. But in 1935 Uncle Sam took a look at the alarming threat of farm tenancy to the nation's agricultural backbone and decided to do something about it.

Result of this decision was the rehabilitation program—or "rehab," as the farmers themselves say. Under this program the government took 12,981 farm families from the bottom rungs of the agricultural ladder in Georgia—families which had at the most a broken-down mule, a plow and maybe a bushel or two of corn—and said in effect:

"We're going to give you a chance. You've been shoved around and taken advantage of until you don't seem to care where you live today or whether you live there tomorrow. But you've managed to eke out a living for your wife and children under the severest handicaps and we think there must be something to you. We propose to furnish you the money to rent a farm, buy equipment and to make yourself self-supporting. But you've got to pay us back. And furthermore we are going to be there to help you and to offer you expert advice in managing your farm."

And how are Georgia's "forgotten" farmers answering the offer? Here are a few clues. With the number of families on the program this year reduced to 10,781, loans made on a five-year repayment plan totaled $2,082,694.72, and those farmers who were on the bottom in 1935 have been able to pay back already half of that amount loaned this year.

Typical Examples Are Shown.

But see for yourself—take a swing around the state and look at a few typical families. Take a look at the family of Allen Justice down in Macon county, just below Montezuma.

There are seven children in Mr. Justice's family. Their ages range from 18 years to 18 months and in 1935 none of them was able to go to school because they didn't have enough clothes to wear. Mr. Justice, who returned from the World War to try to make his living from the soil, was just about at the end of his rope. He tried sharecropping, he tried everything and eventually was forced on relief. There was one bed in the house and no food. All the farming done was on the money crop—cotton.

"I'll tell you frankly I didn't know where to turn when this thing came along," he says. "I just didn't care. I didn't have anything and it didn't look like I'd ever get anything. This 'rehab' surely has been everything to me. I'm going to get me another pair of mules next year and pay up my loan."

When Mr. Justice was accepted he was loaned enough to buy mules and equipment for a two-horse farm. Now his assets total $1,175. He has killed seven hogs this year, has 25 more, two cows and plenty of feed. Meanwhile, Mrs. Justice has been active. The Justice larder is stocked with 250 quarts of canned vegetables, raised in the year-around garden they maintain. Of the $11,200 loaned Mr. Justice he has repaid all but $379.02. He has rented one of the best farms in Macon county for the coming year, however, and with four mules he thinks he can come out on top by the end of the year.

Uncle Sam's Program.

But, you say, does Uncle Sam just open the floodgates of its finances to these rehabilitation clients without any other condition than a mere promise to repay?

The answer is decidedly no.

To insure a sound farm program, emphasis has been placed first on production of enough food and feed to meet home needs and second on production of sufficient cash crops to retire the loan and provide some of the necessities of life.

Through agricultural experts trained in both practical and theoretical phases of scientific farming, the program keeps the farmers informed and advises them on the management of their farms. These trained experts, known as farm supervisors, are the backbone of the rehabilitation program. They are local men acquainted with every inch of farm land in the county to which they are assigned. The farmers look on these supervisors as a sort of godfather. Not only do they take all their farm problems to the supervisors but also their personal problems as well.

When a farmer goes on the program he fills out an application with the supervisor. This application includes every conceivable form of information about the farm to be rented, its capabilities, condition of the soil, productivity. Trained government experts then examine the farm to determine what crops will prove most profitable to plant.

If the farmer is accepted, he then sits down with the supervisor and the two work out a farm plan in which a crop program is mapped, expected income, expected expenditures and other information that will show the farm is a good bet.

Although all the farmers in the program follow recommendations of the Rural Rehabilitation experiment station and extension service, the government does not attempt to dictate how the farms shall be managed. The farmers themselves realize, through experience, the suggestions are to aid them in every way. They realize their old methods of planting a money crop and sitting back will put them right back where they started. Ignorance and prejudice were obstacles the program had to overcome at the outset, but confidence has been won now.

The farmer is on his own. He rents his own farm, works out the contract with the landlord, buys his equipment and manages his own place—all under the watchful advice of the rehabilitation experts, however.

Home management is a second phase of rehabilitation. Uncle Sam has found that woman's place in farm life is one of the severest tests agriculture has to face. Her manual labor is varied and almost endless. Her hours of work are from 14 to 18 hours a day. She works in the home, on the farm, in the garden, in the dairy barn—wherever there is work to be done you will find her there. She is the center of her home and family.

Home Management Plan.

This "home management plan" is worked out with the home supervisor—a woman trained in home economics of the farm. Its aim is to give the farm woman an opportunity for real growth and development by guiding her to think through the problems of her home and family and to make plans for their solution—to develop managerial skill which will enable her to use to best advantage her time, her money, and her energy.

But let's look at some more of Georgia's farmers who are getting a new start in life—farmers whose children for the first time in their lives were able this year to have some idea of the meaning of the word Christmas.

Look at Wesley DeLay and his family of seven over in Douglas county.

Rosy Future Visualized.

"We were sharecropping down on the Chattahoochee in 1934 but the river flooded us and took all we had," Mr. DeLay will tell you. "I paid up my landlord all I owed him and all I had left was two cows and 10 bushels of corn. Then I heard what the government was doing and that's what saved us.

"You know the big thing about this program is it makes us fellows independent. You know you're going to be able to buy fertilizer and food and nobody's standing around telling you to plant cotton. Some of these landlords take advantage of you when you're just a tenant. You plant what they say."

There's a light in Mr. DeLay's eyes when he talks about the future. His six children are in school and he's trying to buy the farm he now lives on. When he was accepted for the program, he was heartsick and indifferent. His total worth didn't amount to $100. Now his assets are estimated at $725. There's plenty to eat in the house and plenty for his two mules in the barn and the cows and hogs in the pasture.

"I'm a farmer," he says simply. He worked on a railroad 10 years ago, but at heart he's rooted to the soil.

For an uphill fight against misfortune, James A. Davis and his family of seven down in Peach county around Fort Valley have hardly any equal.

A sharecropper, Mr. Davis was left without a thing when his landlord liquidated the farm he was on. His equipment was gone, his children were hungry and he didn't know where to turn. Then he got on the rehabilitation program.

Set up with a pair of mules, he started out with new hope. One of the mules went lame. A swap was made for two more and one of those died. It looked as though he was going deeper into debt than ever.

Tragedy Hits Family.

Then one day six-year-old William fell out of a swing in the front yard. His hip was broken, but no one knew it at the time. A few days later, however, his hip became inflamed. He had a high fever. Doctors diagnosed it as infantile paralysis, but were indifferent as to doing anything for him.

Mrs. Davis took matters in her own hands and went to Farm Supervisor W. H. Steele Jr., for aid. He got the boy to a Macon hospital, where it was found he was suffering from a serious bone infection. A few weeks in a cast after an operation, however, and William was back on the farm again.

"With the help of God and this 'rehab' our William was saved. I don't know where we would have been without either one," Mrs. Davis says.

Mr. Davis has had hard luck with his crops, but he feels like "going places," he says, and is

building a new house to replace the one they are now living in.

You've seen three of the 10,000 families in Georgia that are getting new hope and a new start through the "rehab." Every family is a story of determination, of reawakened ambition, reverses suffered, pangs of disappointment but the ever-cheerful willingness to pitch in and work a little harder.

Close to the Soil.

These farmers are close to the soil. They love farming. Many of them could make livings at other trades. But they are farmers at heart and they will always go back to the soil.

Take a random glance around. There's Ralph McLarty, in Douglas county—25 years old but already at the head of a family of 10. He was called upon to assume that responsibility on the death of his father early this year.

"This program has been a father to us," Mrs. McLarty says, and Ralph adds up his feelings to the same conclusion. From an approximate worth of $125 when they came on the program the McLartys have advanced to a net worth of $775 and are going strong. Ralph boosts his income some $60 a year by burning charcoal.

To Onis J. Horton's family over in Carroll county, the "rehab" meant a happy Christmas for his four children. He owned a farm but lost it in 1930. Of $736.50 loaned him over the three-year period, he has repaid all but $46.64. He and "the old lady" he says, are going forward. They are planning for owning the farm some day.

In every section of Georgia, these farmers are holding up their heads. There's a new light in their eye. They smile and their children laugh and play just like other children.

But three years ago these same farmers were sick—both in mind and body. Pellagra, anemia, hookworm—they had to be taken under Uncle Sam's wing and treated physically before anything could be done for their minds. But now they are standing up. The shadow of tenancy has been removed.

Agriculture – 1937
Labor Conditions

Georgia

Macon, Ga., Telegraph
September 18, 1937

Holding Hands at Home

It is an ugly situation that developed in Warren and Glascock counties when cotton ripened in the fields and there was not enough local labor to pick it.

More Negro farm laborers live in Warren county, officials of that place said, than do in adjoining Glascock county. Warren county farmers wanted Warren county Negroes to stay there and pick cotton for 40 cents a hundred pounds, which they said was the "prevailing wage". In nearby Glascock county, farmers who needed cotton pickers just as badly as their neighbor, offered 75 cents a hundred pounds for picking, and a bonus of a drink of whiskey every morning and every night.

To stop an exodus of Negro pickers, Warren county farmers formed a "dawn patrol" of men who rode in automobiles following Glascock county trucks that combed the county for pickers. Every time a Glascock county truck stopped in Warren county to load Negro pickers, the "patrolmen" in the car behind would warn the laborers to stay at home.

The Sheriff of Warren county said also there was a little shooting in the air Monday night "to scare the Negroes."

Warren county farmers offer as justification for their plan the statement that since the Negro laborers live in their county, it falls upon the Warren county white resident to support them during the winter and in off season periods.

There is no apparent solution for the problem of how to get 50 laborers to do the work of 100. And there is no doubt about the necessity of getting cotton crops picked if farmers are to make any profit. But it is deplorable nevertheless when any group of people use forceful persuasion to keep another group from accepting work at wages higher than those being received. It makes no difference whether one group is white and another black; both white; or one blue and another green. It is a practice not far from peonage.

The Telegraph realizes fully that Warren county farmers must have felt serious irritation at the spectacle of "their farm hands" being taken off to another county just when labor was most scarce. And the intent of Glascock county farmers to attract the cotton pickers is obvious—"75 cents a hundred and a drink in the morning and a drink at night."

It would have seemed to an outside observer more just and more civilized if the Warren countians had been able to offer competitively higher wages to hold their pickers instead of "a few pistol shots in the air" and a dawn patrol.

Macon, Ga., Telegraph
September 17, 1937

Says Situation Hurts State

ATLANTA, Sept. 16 (AP)—R. B. Eleazer, educational director of the Commission on Interracial Cooperation, said today Georgia officials should "repudiate" the conduct of Warren county planters in a cotton picking crisis.

"Georgia is again being advertised to the world as a state where Negroes are starved and held in slavery," he said. "This time the advertisers are Warren county farmers reported to be using guns to persuade' Negroes to pick cotton at minimum wages when offered nearly twice as much elsewhere."

The director said "every fair minded Georgian has a right to feel himself slandered by the reports from Warren county and an obligation to himself to repudiate such conduct utterly."

"Governor Rivers and other officials owe a similar obligation to the state of Georgia. Otherwise we need not complain if the rest of the country accepts these reports as representative."

Governor Rivers was out of the city.

Raleigh, N. C., News & Observer
September 17, 1937

COUNTIES STAGE PICKERS' CRISIS

One Georgia County Seeking to Keep Another From Luring Negro Laborers

Warrenton, Ga., Sept. 16.—(AP)—Demands for loyalty for winter care prevailed against offers of higher wages and liquor to Negro cotton pickers in a two-county planters' quarrel today.

A crisis developed in threatened crop spoilage from rain.

Sheriff George P. Hogan of Warren County (who "grew up in the cotton fields") said an uneven distribution of Negro population in Warren and Glascock counties caused friction.

"Farmers up here have fed and housed them all year," Hogan said. "It's only reasonable to resent attempts to lure them into another county, just when their work is of most value. I've heard only a few Negroes are allowed to stay (throughout the year) in lower Glascock."

Bent-backed sharecroppers and wage hands dotted the rows in Warren, swiftly stripping the stalks of seed and lint. They were paid 40 cents a hundred pounds.

In lower Glascock, many fields were bursting with white. The sheriff said planters there were offering 75 cents a hundred "with a drink of liquor in the morning and another drink at night."

Warren County farmers pleasantly declared a "dawn patrol" was frustrating raids on their supply of field workers. Some played checkers at a corner drug store. Others chatted in the town square. Sheriff Hogan explained:

"The wait around here before dawn, when the Negroes are getting ready to go to the fields. If an out-county truck comes through, a couple of the planters trail it in an automobile. Every time the truck stops near a Negro, the planters tell the Negro 'That's an out-county truck' and he goes on about his business."

Shooting, he said, had been confined to a burst of pistol fire into the air here Monday night "to scare the Negroes at bit."

At Gibson, Sheriff J. L. Kitchens said there were "only two Negro families" in the lower part of Glascock County.

"If the planters can't get Negro pickers from somewhere," he said, "I guess they'll have to pick it themselves."

R. B. Eleazer, educational director of the Commission on Interracial Cooperation, called upon Georgians "to repudiate" the actions of the Warren County planters.

At Adel, Ga., Governor E. D. Rivers said he had received "no complaint" from the situation.

He smiled at the report "free liquor" had been offered pickers.

"I thought Georgia was dry," he said.

WPA executives, he added, have promised to release relief workers for cotton fields where they are needed.

Truckers Remove Hancock Pickers

Telegraph

Farmers Offer No Resistance to Invasion

9-24-37

SPARTA, Ga., Sept. 23—Although Hancock county farmers have been short of cotton pickers throughout the season, it is said that numbers of Negro pickers have been gathered by truckers and carried to other counties where they receive higher pay.

Macon

The prevailing price here has been from 40 to 50 cents per hundred, while farmers in counties below here were offering 75 cents.

No resistance was offered here when the laborers prepared to leave for other sections.

2 MEN DISMISSED FOR POSED PICTURE

Atlanta Associated Press Office Announces Discharge.

The Atlanta office of the Associated Press has announced the dismissal of its news photo editor and a photographer as the result of the servicing of a picture from Warren County intending to show a Warren county farmer guarding negro cotton pickers to prevent "raids" on his workers by farmers from the adjoining county, Glasscock.

Correction to Page 10-25-37

The Associated Press said that it had learned on investigation that the picture was posed by a visitor from Atlanta and that no farmer was found to be guarding his cotton pickers.

The Associated Press investigation was launched after Sheriff G. P. Hogan, of Warren county, sought to ascertain the identity of the farmer said to have been in the picture, Sheriff Hogan having announced he intended to arrest the "farmer." Sheriff Hogan, a well-known peace officer, has been sheriff of Warren county for 17 years and says he has a record in "not having the blood of any man on his hands."

Georgia.

Agriculture - 1937
Labor Conditions.

Rosenwald President To Outline Plan To Aid Georgia Farm Tenants

Foundation Will Center Efforts in State, Declares Edward R. Embree, Here To Speak Thursday at Emory Institute of Citizenship.

By RALPH McGILL.

Georgia has within its borders untouched potentialities of wealth.

Millions of dollars annually could be added to the income of Georgians by the development of this potentiality.

To Atlanta yesterday came Edwin R. Embree, who will speak Thursday at the Emory University Institute of Citizenship on what the government is to do to aid in bringing this wealth into circulation and what the Rosenwald Foundation will do to help.

Mr. Embree, who is president of the Julius Rosenwald Foundation and who is a member of the President's committee on farm tenancy, will speak on that subject.

Mr. Embree's committee is to recommend four main objectives. They are:

Making permanent the present resettlement and rehabilitation farm projects.

Purchase of lands to aid in soil and forestry conservation.

Aid to the farmers who are so heavily mortgaged they are about to sink into the tenant class.

Educational aids.

To Center on Georgia.

"The Rosenwald Foundation, which of course is in no way connected with the government activities in the tenant farm projects, will," said Mr. Embree, "make Georgia is focal state in its educational projects to aid the tenant farmers.

"We hope to obtain the co-operation of school officials so that schools, especially the normal schools, will be able to include with the usual subjects, enough instruction in craftsmanship that the tenant farmer may be able to bring to his problem increased physical skill as well as mental progress.

"It is important the tenant farmer should know how to repair his house; how to keep his farm implements in condition; how to make furniture and otherwise keep his farm in condition," he said.

"That is why the Rosenwald Foundation is so eager to have this type of instruction in the schools, particularly the normal type school."

"We find that simply amazing progress has been made in both resettlement and rehabilitation," he said.

Most Loans Repaid.

"Especially pleasing and significant is the fact most of the loans have been repaid.

"I think the south has a great opportunity," said Mr. Embree. "Once this rural problem of the tenant farmer and education has been solved, the south will become one of the great sections of the nation. Those problems are all that retard it now."

His lecture before the institute audience is expected to be one of the highlights of a week of brilliant addresses and discussions.

There are two distinct features to the farm projects involving resettlement and rehabilitation. In the former the project is a community one, involving the bringing to certain land the families selected to carry on the farms there.

The rehabilitation plans take up specific cases. They seek to keep a tenant on the land he is on. If it is not suitable, a place is found for him.

A house is built. He is supplied with a mule and farming implements. Georgia has an important group of these rehabilitated farmers near Tifton.

It was found the total assets of the tenant placed in the projects was an average of $50. In a little more than a year most of the loans have been repaid, the tenant farmers in the projects have increased their assets to an average of $350 each, most of them have two mules and have made improvements about the house and added to their implements.

Health Gain Cited.

The gain in health is even more noticeable. The tenant farmer, assured he would not be at the mercy of the owner-farmer, was encouraged to plant and tend a garden, to can food and to accept the best farming advice available. The usual small percentage of failures is present. But the projects have been more successful than was anticipated. And health is but one of the dividends.

If the purchasing power of each member of a tenant farm family was increased just $5 per year, Georgia would have an added income of more than $1,000,000.

The problem is one of opportunity and one of education. The seven months school is a step in the right direction. The government hopes, now that sanity has been restored to government in Georgia, that greater aid may be given to farm problems and to education in Georgia.

The fact the Julius Rosenwald Foundation is to center its efforts on helping rural education in Georgia and on aiding the leadership of the state, is a factor equally as important.

The tenant farmer class of Georgia can be created into an asset which will produce more wealth than the gold mines of north Georgia have ever produced. It is the most important single problem before the people and a great audience is expected to hear Mr. Embree.

Farm Tenancy Solution Outlined At Emory Institute by Dr. Embree

U. S. Purchase of Land, Safeguarding Against Speculation, Rehabilitation, Removal of Sub-Marginal Land From Cultivation Urged by Authority.

By RALPH McGILL

Every year in the United States 40,000 farmers drop from the farm-operator class and become tenant farmers.

Farm tenancy has become perhaps the most important single economic problem in the nation. It involves not only economics but sociological factors which are equally important. Involved also are health and education.

Yesterday the audience at the Emory University Institute of Citizenship, heard Edwin R. Embree, president of the Rosenwald Foundation and a member of the President's commission on farm tenacy, give his ideas of "The Way Out."

Basic Recommendations.

There were four chief items:

1. Purchase of lands by the federal government and resale to tenant farmers or graduates of agricultural colleges wanting to get a start.

2. Safeguarding against land speculation by long-term contracts which retard the obtaining of the land in fee simple for a period of from 20 to 30 years.

3. Rehabilitation through loans and rehabilitation agents.

4. Removal of farmers from submarginal lands where it is impossible to make a living and the turning of these lands into federal conservation projects.

"Taking the theoretical condition first," said Dr. Embree, "there is no over-production in farm products except perhaps in cotton. Certainly there is a stark lack of food crops to provide a sufficient, balanced diet for all the people. There is a lack of eggs, of poultry, of meats and of vegetables on the tables of all the people. And strangely enough, this lack of balanced food is found mostly in the rural sections and not the urban.

No Mill. Overproduction.

"Certainly all the babies and all the people in need of nuorishment do not have enough milk to drink.

There is no overproduction in milk and other dairy products.

"It is true if these were all developed there would be a competition with the dairy products of Iowa and the middle west; there would be a competition, if vineyards were developed, with those of the California wine makers, and there would be other competitions. They simply would have to be worked out and solved."

"That much for the theoretical side of it. It cannot actually be said there are too many vegetables too much milk and buttter and eggs and poultry and meat for the people's tables," he said.

"Now, each year, some 40,000 new tenant farmers are added to the list of those who have dropped to that condition. We come to practical proposals.

"With regard to the first of the four proposals, I believe the government should buy land. I think it is a problem for the central government because it cannot as well be done by individual states. If so. the problem would have been met before this. Gangs in the great cities were not able to be wiped out by the city or state governments. But almost overnight the federal government agency wiped them out.

Fitted to Needs.

"This land would be resold to those desiring the change. It would be sold in lots fitted to the individual needs.

"Secondly, this land would be sold so as to safeguard it against land speculation. This would mean a long contract. Under the original Bankhead bill the term was set at 60 years. That is too long. Probably some term between 20 and 40 years would be more nearly correct. By thus retarding the fee simple for a period of years, the purchaser would not be tempted to sell in some land boom for a small profit. It would assure a permanent occupancy of the land.

"I believe that in some sections where there were large sections involved with some 300 families on them, co-operatives might be formed and a manager appointed. It would be very similar to a stock company with sales and purchases done by the group," he said.

Rehabilitation Essential.

The rehabilitation feature was declared an essential one. It reaches, through the rehabilitation agents, the lower 40 per cent of the farmers which the county demonstration agent is unable to reach.

The fourth feature was the provision for purchase of sub-marginal lands.

"We know," said Dr. Embree, "that many farmers are trying to make a living on lands which are impossible of farming with profit. These men would be sold land which can be farmed. The submarginal lands would be given over to various conservation projects."

A fifth feature provided for relief in case of floods, drouths, tornadoes and disasters of that type.

This address followed others in which other features of the farm tenancy problem had been discussed. The history of tenancy in this and other countries, the distressing economic and sociological condition of the tenant farmers, their increase, the success of the emergency resettlement and rehabilitation projects already in effect —all this had been covered by other speakers at the institute.

Dr. Embree closed with his suggestions as to "The Way Out."

A large audience heard his afternoon address, which was the first in a series of round-table talks and discussions.

Georgia is in the district of emergency resettlement and rehabilitation projects with Alabama and two other states. In that section are some 50,000 families or about 250,000 people so engaged. Only a small percentage of failures has been noted. Both projects have been unusually successful.

Dr. Embree's way-out proposals would make these two features more or less permanent.

Tenancy Evils Cure Is Seen In Ownership

ATLANTA, Feb. 11.—(AP)—Dr. Edwin R. Embree, of Chicago, president of the Julius Rosenwald Fund, today said the Southern farm tenancy problem "can be met only by some distribution of land ownership."

Discussing "what is to become of the three million to [illegible] million farm families no longer needed as cotton tenants," before the tenth annual institute of citizenship at Emory University here, Dr. Embree said those who have studied the problem advocate:

"1—That the Federal Government through some special agency buy up huge acreages of farm lands . . . and distribute this land in small plots of minimum size required to support farm families, probably 20 to 40 acres in the cotton area. The land may be allocated to the new owners either on long leases or through contracts of sale on long-time payment under easy terms.

"2—That service agencies be set up by regions and local areas to supervise, guide and aid the new homesteaders."

"3—That experiments be conducted in certain types of communities with a view to perfecting means of helping the farmers to self-advancement."

FARM OWNERS USE GUNS TO PREVENT WALKOUT; SHERIFF OK'S ACT

WARRENTON, Ga.—(SNS)—Colored cotton pickers Wednesday were harvesting the "white gold" of this county while their white farmer employers "carried guns and fired them" to keep them at work.

Upholding the farmers in the 'watch" to keep their workers in the home county was Sheriff P. Hogan, who said the Warren County farm owners had averted a threatened walkout of the pickers who had been allegedly enticed to Glascock County on a promise of higher wages. The sheriff said that farmers from the adjoining county had approached the workers "and offered 75 cents a hundred pounds and a drink of liquor in the morning and evening' if they would move into Glascock fields. Said Sheriff Hogan:

"Our farmers just put a stop to it. There was no trouble, although some of them carried guns and fired them into the air. They told the pickers there was plenty of cotton to pick in Warren County, and asked them to stay home and pick it. The pickers decided to stay."

The prevailing wage in Warren county for cotton picking is 40 cents a hundred pounds. Sheriff Hogan, expressing the views of his constituency, said they thought it "good pay." He said there was not much excitement and that he expected no further trouble.

Meanwhile, in Gibson, Georgia, county seat of Glascock County, farmers were reported as making themselves ready to again attempt to recruit Warren pickers at the 75 cents a hundred pounds rate. They were reported as "desperate" for pickers which are scarce in contrast to the huge crop now ripe and awaiting harvest.

Both Warren and Glascock Counties are located not far from Augusta, in northeast Georgia, one of the best agricultural sections of the entire state.

BIBB COUNTY "SOLVES" ITS COTTONPICKING PROBLEMS

MACON, Ga.—(SNS)—One hundred laborers on pay rolls of the Works Progress Administration Wednesday were requisitioned to begin picking cotton in Bibb County fields or face permanent release from relief rolls.

WPA officials disclosed here that last Thursday 68 of 116 men, who were transferred from a federal road project to employment in cotton fields, struck because of low wages. The WPA policy to release workers who 'refuse' jobs for which they are "fitted" was invoked to rid 20 of the men of their support. The Bibb County workers refused to pick the cotton for 50 cents a hundred pounds, it was revealed.

W. Fred Stallings, manager of the Colored division of the employment service of the WPA Wednesday said that between fifty and seventy-five workers will be assigned jobs this (Thursday) morning at 6 o'clock.

John L. Peters, WPA field supervisor, said in reference to sixty-nine workers ordered to pick the lint or lose their relief employment and who did not report to work Wednesday: "At any rate all the sixty-nine men have been taken from the WPA rolls. Either they will work in the cotton fields, find some other private employment or go hungry."

GROWERS TO REPEL COTTON HAND RAIDS

Warren Countians on Guard Against Any Who Would 'Steal' Pickers.

WARRENTON, Ga., Sept. 15.—(AP)—Cotton picking proceeded without interruption here today, but Warren county farmers announced they were ready to repel "by peaceful methods," any attempt on the part of neighboring counties to remove their negro pickers.

Sheriff G. P. Hogan, who last night said some of the negro pickers had been offered more money "and a drink of liquor in the morning and evening," if they would move over to adjoining Glascock county fields, said all was quiet.

"But in case anything happens," he said, "we are ready to handle it in a peaceful way. We are going to get our own cotton picked."

The "peaceful way," Sheriff Hogan said, would include a patrol which will follow any "out county" truck noticed in Warren. If the truck stops and an attempt is made to entice negroes away "we will tell the negroes it is an 'out county' truck and to leave it alone," he said.

Hogan said Tuesday night that when farmers from Glascock approached some of the field negroes the Warren farmers quickly gathered. Some of them, he said, carried guns, "which they fired into the air."

A survey of both counties today failed to disclose any trouble, and Sheriff J. L. Kitchens, of Glascock, said he had "only heard" that shots were fired in Warren yesterday.

"I heard that some truck from the southern part of Glascock, where there are practically no negroes, went into Warren after cotton pickers," he said. "I understand that is where the trucks came from."

He said he did not expect any serious trouble to develop, although one man from Glascock "was ordered back" today when he went to Warren after hands.

R. B. Eleazer, educational director of the Commission on Interracial Co-operation, called upon Georgians "to repudiate" the actions of the Warren county planters.

At Adel, Governor Rivers said he had received "no complaint" from the situation.

He smiled at the report "free liquor" had been offered pickers.

"I thought Georgia was dry," he said.

WPA executives, he added, have promised to release relief workers for cotton fields where they are needed.

WPA FARM SITUATION REPORTED 'UNDER CONTROL'

MACON, Ga., Sept. 16.—(AP)—Although 32 former Works Progress Administration laborers failed to report for cotton picking jobs today, employment service officials said they consider the demand for farm workers "well under control."

WPA officials said they expected 65 former workers to show up for cotton picking jobs this morning at the employment office on Broadway. Thirty-three reported and were taken by farmers to the fields. The remaining 32 are believed to include some of the 46 who also failed yesterday to report to the employment office.

Armed Farmers Hold Cotton Pickers on Job; Refuse to Let Negroes Take Higher Pay Offer

Special to THE I

ATLANTA, Ga., Sept. 15.—Cotton farmers, a number of them armed, today stood guard over fields in Warren County, Georgia, to prevent a threatened walkout.

Following an alleged attempt by farmers of an adjoining county to entice Negro pickers away by offers of higher wages, Sheriff G. P. Hogan of Warrenton confirmed reports that growers had fired their guns into the air "just to show that they meant business."

With an acute labor shortage reported in many cotton-picking sections, Sheriff Hogan declared that the Warren County pickers were approached by Glascock County farmers "and offered 75 cents a hundred pounds and a drink of liquor in the morning and evening" if they would move to Glascock fields.

"Our farmers just put a stop to it," the Sheriff declared. "There was no trouble, although a number of them carried guns and fired them into the air. They told the pickers there was plenty of cotton to pick in Warren County and asked them to stay home and pick it. They decided to stay."

According to the Sheriff, Warren County farmers are paying cotton pickers 40 cents a hundred pounds "which we think is good pay."

Meanwhile, in Macon, sixty-nine more laborers on Works Progress Administration payrolls were requisitioned to begin picking cotton in Bibb County fields or face permanent release from relief rolls. Previously, 68 of 116 men transferred from a Federal road project to employment in cotton fields went "on strike," refusing to do farm work at prevailing wages.

Subsequently, twenty of the men were released in accordance with WPA policy in Georgia that workers must accept jobs for which they are fitted.

Two Georgia Counties Row Over Pickers

Warren Farmers Guard Roads To Prevent Any Luring Of Negroes

WARRENTON, GA., Sept. 16.—(AP)—Demand for loyalty for Winter care prevailed against offers of higher wages and liquor to fleecy cotton pickers in a two-county planters' quarrel today.

A crisis developed in threatened crop spoilage from rain.

Sheriff George P. Hogan of Warren County (who "grew up in the cotton fields") said an uneven distribution of negro population in Warren and Glascock Counties caused friction.

"Farmers up here have fed and housed them all year," Hogan said. "It's only reasonable to resent attempts to lure them into another county, just when their work is of most value. I've heard only a few negroes are allowed to stay (throughout the year) in lower Glascock.

Bent-backed sharecroppers and wage hands dotted the rows in Warren, swiftly stripping the stalks of seed and lint. They were paid 40 cents a hundred pounds.

In lower Glascock, many fields were bursting with white. The sheriff said planters there were offering 75 cents a hundred "with a drink of liquor in the morning and another drink at night."

Warren County farmers pleasantly declared a "dawn patrol" was frustrating raids on their supply of field workers. Some played checkers at a corner drug store. Others chatted in the town square. Sheriff Hogan explained:

"They wait around here before dawn, when the negroes are getting ready to go to the fields. If an out-county truck comes through, a couple of the planters trail it in an automobile. Every time the truck stops near a negro, the planters tell the negro 'that's an out-county truck' and he goes on about his business."

Shooting, he said, had been confined to a burst of pistol fire into the air here Monday night "to scare the negroes a bit."

At Gibson, Sheriff J. L. Kitchens said there were "only two negro families" in the lower part of Glascock County.

"If the planters can't get negro pickers from somewhere," he said, "I guess they'll have to pick it themselves."

Agriculture - 1937
Labor Conditions.

Georgia.

Chattanooga, Tenn., Daily Times
October 9, 1937

FAKED PICTURE WHICH COST PHOTOGRAPHER, EDITOR JOBS

Shown above is a photograph which was faked in a Warren county (Georgia) cotton patch three weeks ago and which led to the dismissal of Associated Press Photographer James Keen and the press service's Atlanta Photo editor, William Boring, according to the current issue of Time Magazine. Keen, a native Chattanoogan, was a photographer for the Chattanooga News before joining the Associated Press about a year ago.

Time reports that Keen was rushed to Warren when farmers of that county complained that Glascock county cotton growers were wooing away their Negro cotton pickers with higher wages and whisky. Warren County Sheriff G. P. Hogan had admitted that some Warren countians had "fired guns into the air" to discourage Glascock raiders. Time says that Keen was unable to find a farmer standing guard over his Negroes with a gun and that the photographer "simply persuaded a visitor from Atlanta to put on a shabby shirt and pants, shoulder a musket, go out in a field and pose near some Negro pickers."

The procedure used to get the picture was discovered when the Warren county sheriff challenged the A. P. to prove the picture was taken in Warren. The Associated Press sent out the following explanation to be used by those papers which had carried the picture: "Investigation revealed the picture was not genuine, but was a picture posed by the photographer, conveyed a false impression, and did not truthfully represent conditions." (The picture has not been printed heretofore in a Chattanooga paper.)

Keen, who is 26 years of age, won high praise and Editor and Publisher honors last January with a human interest picture called "Lowland Madonna," taken during the Mississippi flood. This picture appeared in The Times.

Augusta, Ga., Chronicle
October 5, 1937

The Story of the Faked Picture

The newspaper picture purporting to show an armed farmer guarding Negro cotton pickers in a field in Warren county has turned out to be not genuine. As an aftermath of the incident, two members of the staff of The Associated Press bureau in Atlanta have been dismissed from the service for their part in the taking and dissemination of the "faked" photograph.

The Chronicle is making known the facts in this case for two reasons: first, because it feels that they should be publicized in justice to the citizens of Warren county, who suffered a temporary "black eye" after the publication of the picture in papers throughout the country; and second, to show the attitude of reputable newspapers and news gathering agencies toward untruthful, distorted and misrepresented news stories and photographs.

The Chronicle "broke" the first story concerning the controversy between Warren and Glascock county farmers over the hiring of Negro cotton pickers. The story told of the reputed offers by Glascock farmers to the pickers in Warren county of added pay, and "a drink of liquor in the morning and evening." The information on which The Chronicle based its story was obtained from reliable sources in both counties concerned, and subsequently was never questioned.

The Atlanta bureau of The Associated Press sent a staff photographer to Warren county to obtain pictures, if there were any newsworthy ones to be gotten. The photographer returned to Atlanta with a picture, showing a white man with a gun on his shoulder, standing in a cotton field surrounded by a group of Negroes engaged in the task of picking cotton. The picture was sent to newspapers throughout the country, its caption stating that it depicted an armed farmer guarding Negro cotton pickers in Warren county, Ga.

The American Civil Liberties Union, a Communist-tainted organization, announced that the federal government would be asked to take action against Warren farmers on the allegation that they were guilty of peonage. Members of the Civil Liberties Union became interested after viewing the cotton field picture in Eastern newspapers.

In order to find out the true facts in the case, The Chronicle sent a staff reporter into Warren and Glascock counties. He interviewed Sheriff George Hogan of Warren county who told him, among other things, that two men who notified him they were Associated Press representatives asked him to direct them to a field where they could take a picture of farmers guarding cotton pickers. The sheriff replied that no such conditions prevailed in his county. Then, according to the sheriff, they asked him if he could get a man to walk through a cotton field with a gun on his shoulder so they could photograph him. To this request, Sheriff Hogan replied:

"Do you think I'm a damn fool?"

The sheriff said he conducted the visitors through cotton fields in that section to prove his contention that Negro cotton pickers were not being guarded by white farmers.

When the cotton picking picture appeared in print, The Chronicle, after considering Sheriff Hogan's statement, suspected that the picture must have been faked. The management of The Chronicle notified the Southern division news editor of The Associated Press in Atlanta of the suspicion, and furnished him with additional facts, including Sheriff Hogan's statement. The Chronicle management was insistent that if it was proved that the picture was faked, that proper action should be taken immediately.

The Associated Press Atlanta office determined for itself that the photograph was not genuine, that it was posed by the photographer, that it conveyed a false impression and did not truthfully represent conditions in Warren county. Both the photographer who took the picture, and the editor who serviced it to Associated Press member papers, were summarily dismissed from the service. They were both familiar with the stringent rules which guard the integrity of The Associated Press from such false pictures.

The Chronicle is a member of The Associated Press, which gathers and disseminates news and pictures to thousands of reputable newspapers all over the world. The Associated Press does not sanction, and will not permit, the issuance of either fake stories or fake pictures. It is the most careful and painstaking news agency in the world, and bears a reputation for its truthfulness, accuracy and fairness in both its reportorial and picture departments. Like the papers which form its membership, The Associated Press shuns every practice of fraud in the handling of its news.

Such an unfortunate incident as the faked Warren county picture is a rare exception with this news-gathering organization. Officials in charge of the Atlanta bureau had no idea that the picture was not a bona fide one. If they had known the facts

Agriculture - 1937
Labor Conditions.

Georgia.

Chattanooga, Tenn., Daily Times
October 9, 1937

FAKED PICTURE WHICH COST PHOTOGRAPHER, EDITOR JOBS

Shown above is a photograph which was faked in a Warren county (Georgia) cotton patch three weeks ago and which led to the dismissal of Associated Press Photographer James Keen and the press service's Atlanta Photo editor, William Boring, according to the current issue of Time Magazine. Keen, a native Chattanoogan, was a photographer for the Chattanooga News before joining the Associated Press about a year ago.

Time reports that Keen was rushed to Warren when farmers of that county complained that Glascock county cotton growers were wooing away their Negro cotton pickers with higher wages and whisky. Warren County Sheriff G. P. Hogan had admitted that some Warren countians had "fired guns into the air" to discourage Glascock raiders. Time says that Keen was unable to find a farmer standing guard over his Negroes with a gun and that the photographer "simply persuaded a visitor from Atlanta to put on a shabby shirt and pants, shoulder a musket, go out in a field and pose near some Negro pickers."

The procedure used to get the picture was discovered when the Warren county sheriff challenged the A. P. to prove the picture was taken in Warren. The Associated Press sent out the following explanation to be used by those papers which had carried the picture: "Investigation revealed the picture was not genuine, but was a picture posed by the photographer, conveyed a false impression, and did not truthfully represent conditions." (The picture has not been printed heretofore in a Chattanooga paper.)

Keen, who is 26 years of age, won high praise and Editor and Publisher honors last January with a human interest picture called "Lowland Madonna," taken during the Mississippi flood. This picture appeared in The Times.

Augusta, Ga., Chronicle
October 5, 1937

The Story of the Faked Picture

The newspaper picture purporting to show an armed farmer guarding Negro cotton pickers in a field in Warren county has turned out to be not genuine. As an aftermath of the incident, two members of the staff of The Associated Press bureau in Atlanta have been dismissed from the service for their part in the taking and dissemination of the "faked" photograph.

The Chronicle is making known the facts in this case for two reasons: first, because it feels that they should be publicized in justice to the citizens of Warren county, who suffered a temporary "black eye" after the publication of the picture in papers throughout the country; and second, to show the attitude of reputable newspapers and news gathering agencies toward untruthful, distorted and misrepresented news stories and photographs.

The Chronicle "broke" the first story concerning the controversy between Warren and Glascock county farmers over the hiring of Negro cotton pickers. The story told of the reputed offers by Glascock farmers to the pickers in Warren county of added pay, and "a drink of liquor in the morning and evening." The information on which The Chronicle based its story was obtained from reliable sources in both counties concerned, and subsequently was never questioned.

The Atlanta bureau of The Associated Press sent a staff photographer to Warren county to obtain pictures, if there were any newsworthy ones to be gotten. The photographer returned to Atlanta with a picture, showing a white man with a gun on his shoulder, standing in a cotton field surrounded by a group of Negroes engaged in the task of picking cotton. The picture was sent to newspapers throughout the country, its caption stating that it depicted an armed farmer guarding Negro cotton pickers in Warren county, Ga.

The American Civil Liberties Union, a Communist-tainted organization, announced that the federal government would be asked to take action against Warren farmers on the allegation that they were guilty of peonage. Members of the Civil Liberties Union became interested after viewing the cotton field picture in Eastern newspapers.

In order to find out the true facts in the case, The Chronicle sent a staff reporter into Warren and Glascock counties. He interviewed Sheriff George Hogan of Warren county who told him, among other things, that two men who notified him they were Associated Press representatives asked him to direct them to a field where they could take a picture of farmers guarding cotton pickers. The sheriff replied that no such conditions prevailed in his county. Then, according to the sheriff, they asked him if he could get a man to walk through a cotton field with a gun on his shoulder so they could photograph him. To this request, Sheriff Hogan replied:

"Do you think I'm a damn fool?"

The sheriff said he conducted the visitors through cotton fields in that section to prove his contention that Negro cotton pickers were not being guarded by white farmers.

When the cotton picking picture appeared in print, The Chronicle, after considering Sheriff Hogan's statement, suspected that the picture must have been faked. The management of The Chronicle notified the Southern division news editor of The Associated Press in Atlanta of the suspicion, and furnished him with additional facts, including Sheriff Hogan's statement. The Chronicle management was insistent that if it was proved that the picture was faked, that proper action should be taken immediately.

The Associated Press Atlanta office determined for itself that the photograph was not genuine, that it was posed by the photographer, that it conveyed a false impression and did not truthfully represent conditions in Warren county. Both the photographer who took the picture, and the editor who serviced it to Associated Press member papers, were summarily dismissed from the service. They were both familiar with the stringent rules which guard the integrity of The Associated Press from such false pictures.

The Chronicle is a member of The Associated Press, which gathers and disseminates news and pictures to thousands of reputable newspapers all over the world. The Associated Press does not sanction, and will not permit, the issuance of either fake stories or fake pictures. It is the most careful and painstaking news agency in the world, and bears a reputation for its truthfulness, accuracy and fairness in both its reportorial and picture departments. Like the papers which form its membership, The Associated Press shuns every practice of fraud in the handling of its news.

Such an unfortunate incident as the faked Warren county picture is a rare exception with this news-gathering organization. Officials in charge of the Atlanta bureau had no idea that the picture was not a bona fide one. If they had known the facts

Macon, Ga., Telegraph
October 19, 1937

Georgia Farm Labor Problem

A citizen of Barnesville asks The Telegraph, What is the farmer going to do about labor?

Statement was made at the same time that two Negro men were heard to say in cotton chopping time they were going out to a certain farm and chop cotton. They were waiting for a truck to come and get them. They were talking to several other Negroes standing on the street. They said they were to get paid a dollar a day, and were to be given their dinner without any cost. The other Negroes said they did not care for any job like that because it was up to the government to take care of them. The citizen thought this proof that farm labor is hopelessly demoralized.

Other signs indicate an upheaval in the agricultural program. The threatened war between officials in two counties of the state where a difference in the price offered for cotton pickers brought about bad feeling and unseemly conduct is another straw in the wind.

Farmers were bidding against each other during the past season as they had not done since the days when sawmills took "hands" out of the fields by offering them bigger pay.

The problem is more serious than onlookers might suppose. Some crops suffered during the past year because farm labor liked government relief better than field work, and while the relief projects are blamed for the immediate trouble, it has been apparent for a number of years that the cotton producer could not pay enough to keep farm labor satisfied.

The laborer has been growing more and more indifferent, and less and less inclined to stay on the farm. The morale of the farm hands broke down before government relief was thought of. Two reasons were given by the "hands". One was that their children could get better schooling advantages in town; that consolidated schools in the country had not yet been made available for any considerable number of Negroes. The other reason was that a laborer with a large family of non-earners could not support himself and his family on the 50c or 60c, or even a dollar a day.: Many farmers came to the government employment offices offering 60c a day for able-bodied men to do farm work. The able-bodied men were not attracted by the offer. The farm owner or operator, pictures added benefits of free wood, water, garden space, chickens, etc. And the claim is also made that extra work is given to the other members of the laborer's family for the planting and gathering of crops.

The laborer says that so many of the farms are devoted almost exclusively to cotton that times are not like they used to be. He sees no future for himself on a cotton farm. The farmer wants to pay better wages but says he doesn't make enough to justify it. And his lack of hope has discouraged his labor. He says he is willing to furnish the equipment for making gardens and producing milk and butter, chickens and eggs, and for growing patches of potatoes, melons, etc., but some of his "hands" take no interest in the more abundant life. A crisis is therefore imminent. Something must be done. Blaming our troubles on others never gets us very far. The man who has nothing to sell but his service has a perfect right to sell it in the best market he can find and it is but natural for him to seek the most agreeable surroundings, with the most favorable outlook for himself and the members of his family. While the government is proposing to subsidize the cotton producer to offset the subsidies given to protected industries, it may become necessary to subsidize farm labor to insure the production of any cotton.

If Santa Claus has gifts for the boss he cannot afford to overlook the servants.

Agriculture – 1937
Labor Conditions.

Georgia

Macon, Ga., News
September 17, 1937

ATTACK IS MADE ON DAWN PATROL

Dr. Eleazor Calls on Georgia Officials to Repudiate Conduct in Warren

WARRENTON, Ga., Sept. 17. (AP)—A planters' "dawn patrol" against raids on their supply of field hands brought a demand today from Director R. B. Eleazer of the Commission on Interracial Co-operation that Georgia officials "repudiate" their conduct.

The situation developed from a crisis in Warren and adjoining Glascock county from threatened spoilage of the cotton crop by rains, due to a shortage of pickers.

Friction Results

Sheriff George P. Hogan of Warren county said friction resulted from an uneven distribution of Negro population, upon which principal dependence for cotton pickers was placed.

"Farmers up here have fed and housed them all year," Hogan said. "It's only reasonable to resent attempts to lure them into another county just when their work is of most value."

He added he understood only few Negroes "are allowed to stay throughout the year in Glascock county. He said the dawn patrol was merely the early rising planters who dissuaded Negroes from accepting out-county offers.

In Atlanta, Eleazer asserted:

"Georgia is again being advertised to the world as a state where Negroes are starved and held in slavery. This time the advertisers are Warren county farmers reported to be using guns to 'persuade' Negroes to pick cotton at minimum wages when offered nearly twice as much elsewhere."

"Newspapers in every corner of the nation are telling the story and millions of readers who don't know us are branding us all as brutal slave drivers, utterly indifferent to the rights of our million Negro neighbors.

Calls for Action

"Every fair-minded Georgian has a right to feel himself slandered by the reports from Warren county and an obligation to himself to repudiate such conduct utterly. Governor Rivers and other officials owe a similar obligation to the state of Georgia. Otherwise we need not complain if the rest of the country accepts these reports as representative and rates us accordingly."

At Adel, Ga., Gov. E. D. Rivers said he had received "no complaint" about the situation.

In Warren county the fields were dotted with hands stripping cotton from the stalks today. They were paid 40 cents a hundred pounds. In lower Glascock county where fields were bursting with white, Sheriff Hogan said he understood planters were offering 75 cents a hundred pounds "with a drink of liquor in the morning and another drink at night."

Inviting Red Intervention

It was inevitable that the activities of Warren county farmers to prevent Negro cotton pickers from accepting work at better wages in adjoining Glascock county would bear unwholesome fruit. This obstruction of the free flow of labor in a competitive field is violative of economic laws and social justice. The plea that Warren county farmers have maintained these workers during their period of idleness simply carried us back more than a hundred years to the abuses which prevailed in England where eligibility for relief automatically tied the worker to a given county or parish.

Telegraph

One of the results that might have been foreseen was the intervention of the communistic American Civil Liberties Union. Nobody who has looked into the record of this aggregation of Red racketeers believes for a moment that it has any humane regard for the Negro or for the destitute of any race. Events like the incident in Warren county are merely made an excuse for carrying on communistic propaganda.

9-22-37

This same organization intervened to defend the Communists who were tried and finally found guilty of the murder of the chief of police during the labor troubles at Gastonia, North Carolina. The Civil Liberties Union provided bail for five of the defendants, amounting to 28 thousand 500 dollars, which it secured from the Garland Fund. All the defendants convicted jumped their bail and afterwards were reported to be in Russia. One of them, a man by the name of Fred E. Beal, is now a man without a country. In America he faces a life sentence, if captured by the state of North Carolina, while in Russia he faces a Soviet firing squad because of public expression of disillusionment with the Soviet union. The entire story will be told in a book entitled, "Proletarian Journey" soon to be published.

The Negro Communist, Angelo Herndon, given a life sentence in Atlanta for the possession and circulation of communistic literature, urging an uprising of the Negro race in the South, was likewise exploited by the American Civil Liberties Union for this same purpose of propaganda.

A dispatch from New York says that Roger N. Baldwin, director of the American Civil Liberties Union, is urging Homer S. Cummings, attorney general of the United States, to take action against the Warren county farmers. The telegram to the attorney general said reports indicate a clear violation of the federal peonage law in Warren county and that only federal action can halt "a recurrence of involuntary servitude of Negroes in Georgia."

Over in Memphis, Tennessee, the mayor, chief of police and the public authorities generally, have given notice that they would not tolerate the presence in that city of imported CIO agitators and would take immediate steps to drive them out. The American Civil Liberties Union is also preparing to make that incident a point of departure for the propaganda they feel so sure of carrying through the newspapers of the country.

For the time being, at least, we may leave Memphis to look after its own fight against imported organizers of the communistic CIO.

We may turn our attention to the documentary evidence which shows that the American Civil Liberties Union is a communistic organization and that its alleged concern for freedom of speech, freedom of the press and freedom of assembly, as well as its deep interest in the Constitution of the United States, is pure hokum. It aims at the overthrow of all freedom and the subversion of the American system of government.

Report No. 2290 of the third session of the Seventy-first congress issued January 17, 1931 gives the details of an investigation of communist propaganda carried on by a special committee under the chairmanship of Representative Hamilton Fish.

On Page 56 it is reported that the American Civil Liberties Union "is closely affiliated with the communist movement in the United States and fully ninety per cent of its efforts are on behalf of communists who have come into conflict with the law." It is quite apparent, says the report, "that the main function of the ACLU is to attempt to protect the communists in their advocacy of force and violence to overthrow the government, replacing the American flag by a Red flag and erecting a Soviet government in place of the republican form of government guaranteed to each state by the Federal Constitution."

Roger N. Baldwin, director of the organizaton and its guiding spirit, is the man who has wired the attorney general to look into this Warren county affair. With Baldwin on the stand in the Fish inquiry the following questions and answers were taken down.

The Chairman: Does your organization uphold the right of a citizen or alien—it does not make any difference which—to advocate murder?

Mr. Baldwin: Yes.

The Chairman: Or assassination?

Mr. Baldwin: Yes.

And this is the kind of cattle whose attention has been centered upon the state of Georgia by the Warren county episode. The pity of it all is that apparently the facts in the case would justify real intervention from an honest and patriotic source.

Albany, Ga., Herald
September 17, 1937

Protest Is Made Against 'Dawn Patrol' in Georgia

WARRENTON, Ga., Sept. 17 (AP).—A planters' "dawn patrol" against raids on their supply of field hands brought a demand today from Director R. B. Eleazer, of the Commission on Interracial Co-operation, that Georgia officials "repudiate" their conduct.

The situation developed from a crisis in Warren and adjoining Glascock County from threatened spoilage of the cotton crop by rains, due to a shortage of pickers.

Sheriff George P. Hogan, of Warren County, said friction resulted from an uneven distribution of Negro population, upon which principal dependence for cotton pickers was placed.

"Farmers up here have fed and housed them all year," Hogan said. "It's only reasonable to resent attempts to lure them into another county just when their work is of most value."

He added that he understood only a few Negroes "are allowed to stay" throughout the year in Glascock County. He said the "dawn patrol" was merely the early-rising planters who dissuaded Negroes from accepting out-county offers.

In Atlanta, Eleazer asserted:

"Georgia is again being advertised to the world as a state where Negroes are starved and held in slavery. This time the advertisers are Warren County farmers reported to be using guns to 'persuade' Negroes to pick cotton at minimum wages when offered nearly twice as much elsewhere.

"Newspapers in every corner of the nation are telling the story, and millions of readers who don't know us are branding us all as brutal slave drivers, utterly indifferent to the rights of our million Negro neighbors.

"Every fair-minded Georgian has a right to feel himself slandered by the reports from Warren County and an obligation to himself to repudiate such conduct utterly. Governor Rivers and other officials owe a similar obligation to the state of Georgia. Otherwise we need not complain if the rest of the country accepts these reports as representative and rates us accordingly."

At Adel, Ga., Governor E. D. Rivers said he had received "no complaint" about the situation.

In Warren County the fields

were dotted with hands stripping cotton from the stalks today. They were paid 40 cents a hundred pounds. In lower Glascock County, where fields were bursting with white, Sheriff Hogan said he understood planters were offering 75 cents a hundred pounds "with a drink of liquor in the morning and another drink at night."

Charleston, S. C. News & Courier
September 22, 1937

Vagrants and Peonage

On the face of the allegations about employing farmers in Warren county, Georgia, the American Civil Liberties have a case when it sends to Attorney General Cummings a charge that negro cotton pickers are subjected to "peonage". Similar charges will be brought against Southern employers and officers elsewhere. It will be said that the arrest of "vagrants", in Macon, for example, is a pretext to make slaves of negroes while the cotton fields are white.

Meanwhile, why are vagrants so many? Is not the negro assured by Mr. Harry Hopkins and the president that "no American shall starve"? They do not say in so many words, "Even if you are a vagrant you shall be fed", but isn't that about what it comes to?

Do not the negroes, whites too, flock to the cities? The "standard of living" is higher in the cities; in them relief is better organized.

In the great cities no man is arrested for mere vagrancy. The fields are white in the South; there is shortage of labor; but there is clamor for relief, and no man knows whether Happy Hopkins pays a "supervisor" $500 or $50 a month.

If Southern farmers pay much more than fifty cents a hundred for picking they will probably "go broke"—that is scarcely a dollar for a day of ten hours. If they can't get pickers the cotton rots.

The American Civil Liberties, so resolved against forced negro labor in the South, stands by the men in the North who force other men not to labor—stands by men who take possession of factories, sit down in them and beat up workers who would like to work in them.

Some day Southerners will find out that it is unsafe to look to government as god. It may be too late.

Agriculture - 1937

Louisiana

6 Labor Conditions.

Eviction Menaces La. Farmers

1-9-37

NEW ORLEANS — Threats of violence against Farmers' Union members on St. Landry Farm near Opelousas took the place of the usual Christmas spirit as the Resettlement Administration allowed local officials to continue discrimination against colored and whi[illegible]

The Louisiana Farmers' Union has defended the right of fourteen St. Landry Farm tenants to remain on the land since the middle of November. The union is asking the RA to make loans to the tenants so they may buy land, teams, tools, feed, fertilizer, and such instead of being evicted.

LOUISIANANS DRAFTED FOR COTTON WORK

8-28-37

All Able-Bodied Men Must Work in Fields; Are Arrested

SHREVEPORT.— (ANP) —Idlers, described as all able-bodied Negroes and white men "who can work and won't work," will be impressed into service on cotton picking jobs on the parish penal farm, according to a plan announced last Tuesday by Chief of Police E. E. Norvell.

He said plantation owners around Shreveport stand in need of cotton pickers, have been unable to get the required number the chief continued:

To Arrest Vagrants

"There are many men in Shreveport idling their time away. They will be rounded up by police, charged with vagrancy and if convicted will be sent to the Caddo parish farm where they will be compelled to pick cotton without renumeration.

"Many of these men are begging on the streets which is strictly against the law and if caught they will be arrested. A number of transients coming through Shreveport in autos are going about the country begging for money with which to purchase gasoline to continue on to the next city.

"They stop over in each town several days on the outskirts of the city and while here go about begging. These will also be picked up."

Agriculture-1937
Labor Conditions.

Mississippi.

Grenada, Miss. Sentinel
August 26, 1937

TO THE NEGROES OF GRENADA COUNTY.

Grenada should be made an unhealthy place for labor agents and tenant organizers. Signs can already be seen of them coming into our midst seeking to lure farm hands to the Delta and other sections to pick cotton.

We would warn our colored population that these labor agents are going to offer you most any inducement to take you to another community. They will offer you transportation, a place to live, and possibly rations and a higher wage. But will you get all of this? And after cotton picking time is over how are you going to get back home? You will have no money for the "deducts" will have taken all you earned. And who will you expect to take care of you this winter? You will expect the people of this community to. But will they do it after you have deserted them when your services were most needed? We don't think they will.

The white people of Grenada county treat the tenant farmer fairly, they give him all he earns, they feed and clothe him and his family during the winter and provide medical attention when needed.

This morning's Commercial Appeal carries a news item about a negro tenant being forced to remain on a delta plantation in Tallahatchie county. We quote this article in part:

> "A complaint by a negro sharecropper that he was forced to remain on a Delta farm and that his wife was chained to a bed on a landlord's insistence they were in debt to him, sent Department of Justice agents into North Mississippi today on a peonage inquiry.
>
> I went to the Decker place and in a sharecropper cabin I found the woman chained to a bed with a trace chain, Sheriff Dogan said."

We do not know whether this sharecropper was being held on this farm against his will or not. But we urge the negroes of Grenada county to remain here where they know that they will get a square deal in time of plenty and be taken care of during the bad crop years.

Greenwood, Miss. Commonwealth
September 3, 1937

Negro Leaders Urge Pickers To Accept Reasonable Price

NEGROES SHOULD COOPERATE WITH FARM MOVEMENT

By C. H. JONES, Editor
Southern Mediators Journal

Tuesday night, August 31, a large number of the outstanding planters (white) of Leflore county met at the court house at 8:00 p. m. for the purpose of regulating a price for cotton pickers that would be economically sound for both the tenants and outside help. Mr. Hugh Gary, general Mgr. of the Wild Wood Plantation was acting chairman of the meeting. After several comments from some of the leading planters regarding the common consent that all planters pravailing prices for cotton pickers, it was unanimously voted by pay cotton pickers a standard price of 75 cents per 100 lbs., whether they be outside help or on the farm.

Now then, we are interested in this movement because of the fact that more than 1000 of our people in Greenwood depend on cotton-picking for to buy their food and winter suply. We know and every intelligent Negro knows that the price paid for cotton picking is based upon the prevailing market price per pound. At present the market price runs around 8 and 9 cents a pound. Therefore it would be unreasonable for any sane minded person to expect more than 75 cents per 100 pounds at the present market price for cotton and seed today. I want that my people get a living wage for their work, but in this case, it must not be at the expense of the tenants and share-croppers who tilled the soil to make the crop.

There are two sides to this movement. First, from the tenant view point, second, from our outside labor. The land-lord cannot pay $1.00 per 100 pounds, and treat the tenants who made the crop right. For in the end it is the tenants who pay the dollars. It would cost the average tenant at $1 00 per 100 pounds around $18.00 a bale to gather his crop. Instead of him making money, he would lose and come out in debt. The primary aim of the meeting from an organizational view point was to so fix the prices that both the tenants and town laborers interest would be protected. A good cotton picker can make money now while the cotton is green at 75 cents per 100 pounds than he can make later on at $1.00 when the cotton is dry.

An exodus of our people has naturally brought on shortage of labor in Mississippi and Arkansas. Planters want some assurance of gathering this large crop. As a result of the shortage of labor, some have resorted to importing Mexicans into this states to gather this crop. What does this mean to our people? It means that the members of my group who are too short sighted to see the danger and aftermath of this grave picture will suffer the consequence We are asking the planters not to import any more Mexicans. Please consider the need of our people we really need the work for support.

We are advising our people to pick the cotton at the prevailing prices. To not do so, would not show good judgment.

By A. B. MORANT
Negro County Agent

To The Planters of Leflore County:

As a representative of the Negroes of Leflore county, we beg to advise that we are deeply concerned over the harvesting, and price of the harvesting of this year's crop, and we stand ready to cooperate and pledge our moral suport in so far as it is pracitcal and permissible.

We deplore the decline in the prices of the greatest commodity of the world, King Cotton, which necessitates the decline of the price of harvesting and without a uniform price fixed by he county, and every planter agreeing, and conforming to it, there will be a scramble for labor.

And too, the price that may be fixed by the county must equal the prices of adjoining counties. If not, there is danger of losing labor, going to other counties.

The masses of farm labor hasn't realized that a farmer cannot afford to pay a dollar per hundred for nine cent cotton, and a great deal of good can be done by contacting them in mass assemblies or by hand bills explaining to them the acute situation of the harvesting of this crop, and asking their cooperation which I know they will give.

DELTA AREA IN NEED OF 50,000

CLARKSDALE, Miss. (ANP)—Facing one of the largest cotton crops in the history of this section farm leaders last week estimated that 50,000 cotton pickers are needed in the Mississippi delta region. Coahoma sent out an appeal for 10,000 pickers to be used in the fields of the county so the crop may be speedily harvested.

Planters in the delta region are confronted with the problem of securing enough pickers to gather the record yield before weather damage occurs. The labor shortage is more acute this year than in several years, because thousands of Negroes left the section for industrial centers last year.

Mississippi Farmer Opposes Cotton Crop Control By KKK

Holds Small Grower Penalized By Federal Diversification Program

To The Commercial Appeal:

In your issue of the date of Nov. 12, 1937, in your "Washington Merry-Go-Round" column, Crop Control by K. K. K., Oscar Johnston is quoted as saying:

"I don't believe that cotton growers want acreage control of production. I don't care whether we have compulsory control or not, because if we can get 75 per cent of the cotton farmers to join, the program will become compulsory.

"The 75 per cent will not stand by and see the minority chisel. If they can't make them co-operate by legislation, there might be a K. K. K. or nightriders to make them do so by force."

In reply to such a radical statement by Mr. Johnston, I want to say, as a small hill farmer who has not been able to co-operate in our farm program without being penalized, the farm programs have penalized farmers that had given feed and food crops before the base period. We were made to accept the same per cent reduction as the large cotton grower who had grown all cotton. Mr. Johnston never grew any feed or food crops until the Government paid him large rental benefits for lands taken out of cotton production. I think the "real chiselers" are such men as Oscar Johnston, who never grew feed and food crops until the Government paid them to do it. If Oscar Johnston will help write a Farm Bill that will give equal opportunities to all farmers, we will not need a K. K. K. unless we need it to whip Oscar Johnston into line. He knows, as well as he knows his name, that our farm programs have given such men as himself the advantage over small growers. I want to suggest a fair cotton base. Measure every farm and give every farmer the same per cent of his open land for a base—not to exceed 70 per cent—no rental benefits for farmers who did not grow feed and food crops before the '28 to '32 base period.

We will then need the K. K. K. to force Oscar Johnston to co-operate.

C. E. BARRENTINE.

McCarley, Miss.

Missouri.

Agriculture — 1937
Labor Conditions

Cotton Picking' Vacation Opens In Missouri Counties

By The Associated Press

CAPE GIRARDEAU, Mo., Sept. 24.—More than 5000 children of all ages, dragging 20-foot sacks behind them, plucked away at "King Cotton" in Southeast Missouri today. It was their "cotton vacation," the annual period when they drop their school work to help pick the crop.

While the children were in the fields, their teachers attended the special "cotton term" offered for the first time this year by Southeast Missouri State Teachers College here. Fifty-one teachers will receive extra college credit for their studies during the five weeks' period.

9-25-37

For more than 40 years, youngsters in this area have been doing their share toward gathering the crop. They start to school before the normal opening date throughout the state, take time out for cotton picking then return.

School officials admit the enforced vacation creates a gap in the year's instruction. Pupils often find it difficult to pick up their studies where they left off. But officials don't know what to do about it.

When the cotton crop is ready attendance drops off to such an extent it is useless to attempt holding classes. The layoff doesn't affect the larger cities to any great extent, but the rural areas feel the "vacation" strongly.

The children work hard, too, in Dunklin, Scott, Pemiscot, Stoddard New Madrid and Mississippi Counties, youngsters learn to drag a heavy cotton sack at the age of 5 or 6 years.

A grade school child will pick from 40 to 100 pounds of cotton a day. The hours are long—from early morning until sundown.

In mid-October the youngsters will drop their sacks and resume their studies—and forget about the "cotton vacation" for another year.

Oklahoma

Agriculture - 1937
Labor Conditions.

Cotton Picking and Vagrancy Laws

News reports this week state that the sheriff of Okfuskee county has issued orders stating that idle men caught in and about Okemah will be arrested on vagrancy charges unless they immediately decamp to the cotton fields, and we notice favorable comment in the newspapers publishing this statement endorsing the stand of the sheriff.

In addition to this we note in our AP releases that down in Warrenton, Georgia something similar is going on, but in the Georgia instance the effort to force laborers to work is among Negroes. Okemah is a white town and it can be easily understood that the Oklahoma experiment is an attempt to drive idle white men into the cotton fields.

Vagrancy laws in the South were enacted following slavery, and during the Reconstruction period for the express purpose of reinslaving Negroes. Even today down in Arkansas and many southern sections "hireling bonds" are methods by which helpless Negroes are forced to do labor for the planters, in violation of the 14th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States. It is a rotten sysem by which a sheriff goes to a Negro frolic or anywhere and rounds up scores of Negroes. They are fined and planters are permitted to pay one-tenth of the bond money in cash, but the Negro victim of this terrible economic system must work out the original amount of the fine. In other words a $50 fine is liquidated by a white planter for $5. You can judge how long a black man would work out the $50 at the rate of 50c per day and being charged with board on rainy days.

It is interesting to note that cold blooded economics finally overlooks the color line and reaches out to grasp white people, as in the Okemah incident. Who is to determine when a man is idle? We know a lot of rich people who might fall within the grasp of such vagrancy laws if we had to use the measuring rod of idleness. Why should one man be responsible for the harvesting of some other man's crops? Is this free America that we boast of when men can be driven into the fields to toil for wages they may not care to accept?

This is no argument for the continuance of WPA or any relief agency. We simply want to get it through our noodle how one man can determine that another man is idle. There is a whole lot of tyranny that can be wrapped up in any loose system that leaves the liberty and freedom of citizens up to the whim and caprice of individuals who might inject their narrow prejudice into their acts.

Those who laud the plan talk at length about the evil effects of WPA and hold their hands up in holy horror because fleecy locks hang untouched in the cotton bolls. We agree that WPA should cease if there is sufficient work for men who should have employment, but we will never agree to nor endorse a vicious public policy that first found favor when Reconstruction whites were attempting to re-enslave black citizens.

More and more poor whites are coming to realize that whatever economic straight-jacket there is prepared for Negroes in the South will sooner or later engulf poor whites also. The sheriff's edict at Okemah is proof of this truth

Agriculture – 1937
Labor Condition.

South Carolina

Columbia, S. C. State
July 26, 1937

Farm Labor Facts.

Labor on farms in South Carolina is scarcer now, actually and relatively, except in a few counties, than in any other year since the middle 20's, and this situation is affecting the farming activities of the state. O. M. Clark, agricultural economist and farm management specialist of Clemson college extension service, presents in brief form an analysis of the labor situation and some suggestions to meet it. Mr. Clark's analysis is based on a limited survey which he made through the community commiteemen of the soil conservation program.

In some counties, Mr. Clark points out, the shortage of labor is quite pronounced, while in others it is less acute. Counties of the middle and lower Piedmont (Greenwood, Saluda, Laurens, Newberry, Cherokee, Union, York, Chester, Fairfield, Richland, Lancaster and Kershaw) seem to be in the worst situation regarding the supply of farm labor. Counties of the Pee Dee area (Florence, Dillon, Marion, Horry and Williamsburg and to a somewhat less degree Marlboro, Lee, Sumter and Georgetown) seem to be in the best situation with respect to farm labor supply.

Shortage Shown for State.

The labor situation as indicated by the report of these committeemen is in line with that reported by the United States department of agriculture in its quarterly report of farm wage rates, labor supply and demand. The report as of April 1 of this year relative to farm labor supply and demand indicated that for South Carolina as a whole, the farm labor supply was 77 per cent. of normal against 89 per cent for a year earlier and 87.2 per cent. for the country as a whole. The supply expressed as a percentage of the demand was 88 against 110 a year earlier and 100.7 for the country as a whole.

As a consequence of the shortage of farm labor, there is an appreciable amount of idle crop land, especially in certain parts of the state. Greenwood, Saluda, Laurens, Newberry, Union, Cherokee, York, Chester, Lancaster and Richland counties reported considerable land idle because of a lack of labor to work it. Several other counties, mostly in the western part of the state, reported some crop land idle due to labor shortage. Apparently, counties in the coastal section have very little crop land left out of cultivation this year because of labor shortage.

Shortage Analyzed.

Of the laborers and tenants that have left the farm, some have left the state and some have gone into other work within the state. Some counties reported a considerable migration of Negroes to Northern states. Abbeville, Greenwood, Saluda, Newberry and Chester counties reported the greatest movement out of the state. Laurens, Union, Fairfield, Lancaster, Edgefield and Aiken counties reported such movement, but to a less degree.

In the case of white labor, cotton mill work and government-sponsored work are the most common types into which labor has gone and they are about equal with respect to the erstwhile farm labor now employed in them. Lumbering and work relating to supplying pulpwood to paper mills are commonly mentioned in the coastal counties.

In the case of Negro labor, which has left the farm, governmen... and work is by far the most common absorbent. In the Piedmont counties many Negroes have found work around textile plants. In the coastal counties, lumbering and work relating to supplying pulpwood are commonly mentioned. Work on roads is rather common throughout the state relative to both white and colored labor.

There seems to be no relationship between the labor supply and wages paid farm labor. The counties which are apparently in the worst situation in regard to the farm labor supply have an average daily wage rate slightly above the state average, but an average monthly wage rate slightly below the state average. The counties in the most favorable situation with respect to the farm labor supply have an average daily wage basis slightly below the state average and an average monthly rate slightly above the state average.

There are doubtless several factors responsible for the decrease in the farm labor supply. The improvement of business conditions in the North has created a condition which encouraged the movement of labor to that section. Increased industrial activity, especially in the field of cotton textiles, in this and adjoining states; some pickup in construction work, and government-sponsored projects have made it possible for more people to find employment in these fields.

Also a part of the shortage is due to a change in the demand for farm labor. The acreage of corn is apparently about the same as that of last year; the acreages of cotton and tobacco are from all indications substantially greater than the respective acreages of these crops last year.

The counties which are in the most favorable situation with respect to farm labor supply are in the tobacco section of the state, where crops were unusually good last year and prices of tobacco high. Several of the counties in which labor shortage is most severe are counties which suffered from drought last year. It is possible that tenants moved out because of the relatively poor crops last year. However, some of the counties that reported serious labor shortage had excellent crops last year.

Many of the committeemen answering the quentionnaires believe that the government-financed work is responsible to a large degree for shortage of labor on farms. A very common comment was, "Farmers can not compete with WPA wages."

Agriculture—1937
Labor Conditions.

Tennessee

EMPLOYMENT BRANCH OPENED FOR PICKERS

Virginia Avenue Office to Handle Harvest Needs

With an increasing demand for cotton pickers, the Memphis Employment Center has opened a branch office at 227 West Virginia, Commissioner Ralph Picard said yesterday. The office sent out 57 pickers Tuesday.

Two field workers are on duty from 4 to 11 a.m. at the branch office near Harahan Bridge. Registrations will be taken during the rush season at both the branch and the center, 150 Court.

The Memphis agency is meeting the cotton picking boom by working in co-operation with Arkansas and Mississippi divisions of the National Re-Employment Service. Planters can use 10,000 pickers, according to estimates. The employment agencies are checking the reliability of planters requesting labor and fair wages and opportunities for permanent work are promised.

Agriculture – 1937
Labor Condition.

Texas.

Cotton Pickers Demanding Better Wage, Flee Texas County After Jail Threat

HOUSTON, Tex., Aug. 6— [illegible]ports received here [illegible] tell of a warning [illegible] the sheriff of Gon- [illegible]heriff B. Neighbors, "Cotton picker kid- Get out of town or [illegible]nd in jail; Loafers— [illegible]ork or go to jail"

[illegible]t warning was directed at [illegible] have been hiring [illegible]kers during this busy sea- [illegible]her wages, to go to other [illegible]nd work. Wages in Gonzales county are the lowest in the state and through the action of the sheriff [illegible]who owns plenty cotton land [illegible] will remain low.

"Two [illegible]idnapers" have been arrested already, but since there is no law [illegible] which to hold them, they were [illegible]ase.. with a warning to get out of [illegible]town. Any strange white [illegible]ht talking to Race workers was immediately suspected of being a "kidnaper" and given warning.

Another order was directed, according to the sheriff, at Race members who have been refusing to work for low wages. Now they are compelled to work for excessively low wages as private employes or go to jail as vagrants and be hired out to some farmer to work for nothing.

The result of the order has been a general exodus from Gonzales county of Race members who do not want to work at prevailing wages. Those who have the money to go out of the county are leaving in droves.

The cotton crop this year is enormous. Bumper crops are reported all over the state. Prevailing wages here are 45 cents per hundred. Wages elsewhere in the cotton section are from 65 cents upward. The cotton in and about Gonzales is the tough kind to pick.

Radio and newspaper advertisements are being reported to by cotton farmers and chamber of commerce organizations to secure help from other parts of the state.

Sheriff Neighbors stated to reporters: "I am not going to stand by and see this cotton crop ruined through lack of help when there are plenty Negroes and Mexican workers who are not working. They will have to work or go to jail."

Idle Must Pick Cotton In Texas

DALLAS, Aug. 7.—(AP)—It's cotton pickin' time in Texas and the man who shuns the back-breaking labor is liable to a term in jail.

There's a near record crop in this huge state which furnishes nearly 30 per cent of the nation's cotton and pickers are scarce. A total of 4,150,000 bales, only 10,000 less than Texas' 1926 record, is forecast.

The Rio Grande Valley desperately needs pickers—at 60 cents to $1 per hundred pounds. Similar calls for labor are heard elsewhere.

Relief rolls have been stripped to force able-bodied men, women and children to the cotton fields.

At Gonzales, the sheriff's office brazenly posted signs warning town loafers they would go to the cotton patches—or to jail.

The same warning added that any invaders who came to Gonzales to induce pickers, on the promise of better pay, to go to other fields would be jailed.

A searing sun which prematurely popped cotton bolls greatly increased the demand for pickers. Usually the season extends from June in the Rio Grande Valley until frost falls on the plains.

Adding to the planters' worries and the need for quick picking is the danger of a storm. That would reduce production and lower both the grade and price—but increase the price for pickers. Harvesting damp cotton is harder work, means more pay.

Talking to Cotton Pickers Is Crime

GONZALES, Tex.— It was a jailable offense in south Texas this week for a stranger to speak to a cotton picker.

A labor shortage has become so acute that every man caught idling is given his choice of jail or the cotton fields and anyone who talks to the pickers is suspected of trying to lure them to some other section with a promise of more money, and is given summary "justice."